Dragons and Tigers Manga
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READ LEFT TO RIGHT-->

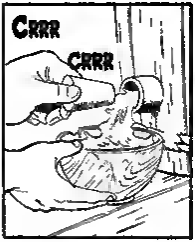
HEY !! THAT'S HIM !!
HE WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN PASS !!
LET'S SPLIT UP !!
TAP TAP TAP
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY !!
TAP
TAP
SEVEN GUYS...? I CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL...
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD ATTACK THEM ALL NOW.. MY STRENGTH HAS WORN OUT.
GRET...

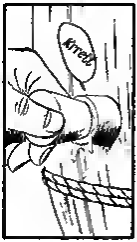
!!
NOW YOU DIE !!!!
HOSHI NO KEN
CRASSH...
CRASSH...
JUED
HEGH...!

STILL FOUR TO GO...
SET...
WUUSH
CLANG!

HEGH
SRET
MY SWORD HAS BEEN BENT...!!
Hoa!
GOT YOU NOW !!
TRANG

YOU WERE MESSING AROUND WITH US AT THE TAVERN BACK THERE. DON'T EXPECT TO GET AWAY WITH IT !!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YOU SWINDLER !!!
DAMN IF ONLY I HAD A SWORD...
HMM...
STILL...
DASH
THIRTY SIX METERS LEFT.
TAP
TAP
TAP
AFTER HIM !!!!


CRRR
CRRR


Krrrch!

GLUK GLUK GLUK
YAT BRAND SAKE

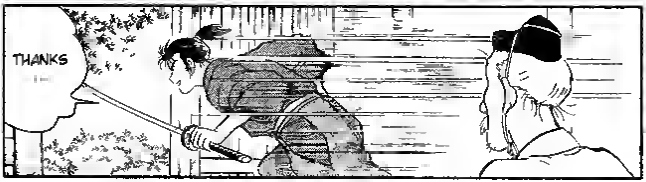
he... he...
Slurp

KPEEK!

OLD MAN !! IF YOU HAVE ANY SHARP WEAPONS PLEASE LEND THEM TO ME NOW !!
what the heck is going on?
AXE, PICKAX, ANYTHING IS FINE. COME ON !!
someone chasing you??
INSIDE THAT HUT !!
YES, BUT...

take this!
GRETT

A SWORD...!?


THANKS

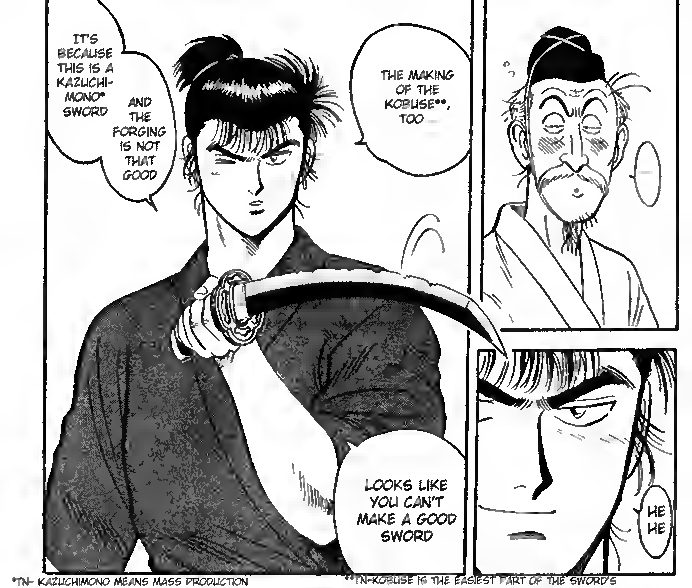
hmph!
POW!
VAT BRAND SAKE
GLUG GLUG

TRAANG
JLEB...
Hey !!
YOU !!
BLUGH...
BRETT...

GRET...

WHAT AN AWFUL GUY
THANKS
OLD MAN
What's the problem?
I never knew a man who could send 4 guys to hell so easily like that
!
hmph
JUST SOME
SIMPLE MATTER

ARE YOU A BLACK-SMITH?
OLD MAN
Looks like I'm one
GLUK
YOUR SWORDS ARE NOT THAT GOOD
you know anything about SWORDS?
THIS SWORD OF YOURS
AFTER KILLING 4 GUYS IT TURNED INTO THIS
ha ha ha ha ha
but at Least it can kill 4 guys right?

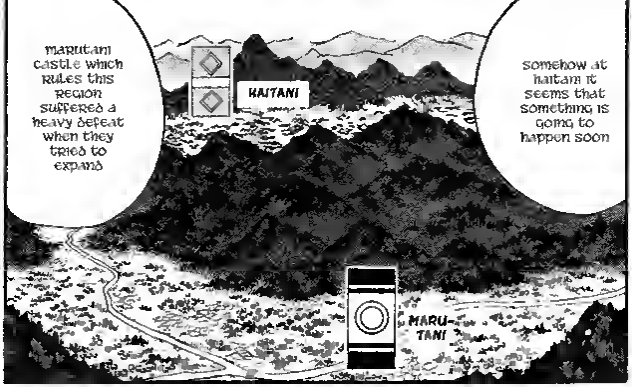

IT'S BECAUSE THIS IS A KAZUCHI-MONO* SWORD AND THE FORGING IS NOT THAT GOOD
THE MAKING OF THE KOBUSE**, TOO
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T MAKE A GOOD SWORD
HE HE

*TN- KAZUCHIMONO MEANS MASS PRODUCTION

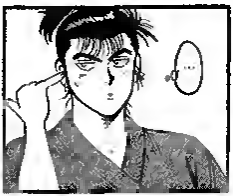
**TN-KOBUSE IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE SWORD'S COMPONENT TO MAKE

MY FATHER IS A BLACK-SMITH, TOO
HIS NAME IS GENZA AMACHI
Genza Amachi
In this neighbor-hood
no one knows anything about Genza Amachi
even though he is a famous black-smith

It's good to be a blacksmith nowadays!
My dad was passed away...
hah...
SYUUT...
7 years ago
So... you continue his work now?
Nope
I'm just an unemployed guy
A hired sword
Is any war occurring here lately??
If there is a war going on I will definitely get a job!!
So in this area the scent of war has started to spread?


Marutani castle which rules this region suffered a heavy defeat when they tried to expand
HAITANI
Somehow at Haitani it seems that something is going to happen soon
MARU-TANI

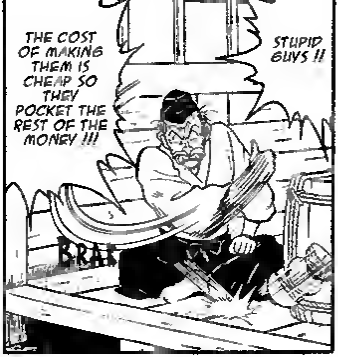
It is always about war everywhere...
even the wind carries the smell of blood to this place...


...

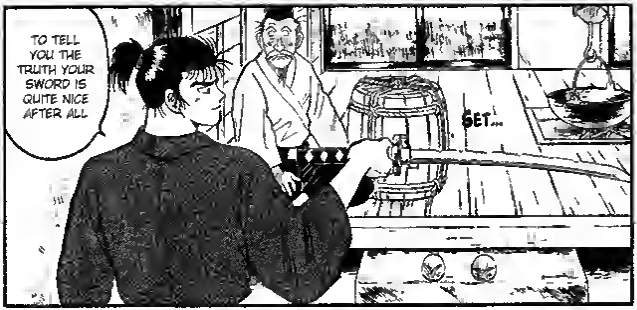
BUT IF THERE IS A WAR I BET A BLACKSMITH WOULD PROSPER

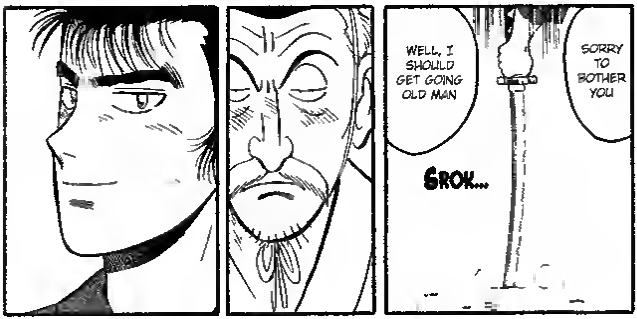
I hope so...
VAT BRAND SAKE

but when it comes to war they prefer quantity over quality
they rather pick ten crappy swords than a nice quality sword "


THE COST OF MAKING THEM IS CHEAP SO THEY POCKET THE REST OF THE MONEY !!!
STUPID GUYS !!
BRAK

at a time of war like this they enrich themselves. they don't deserve to be officers at all. maruto-ni will lose for sure !!
.....


TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH YOUR SWORD IS QUITE NICE AFTER ALL
SET...

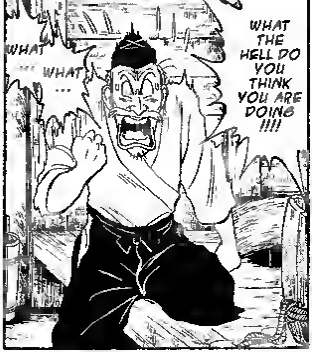

WELL, I SHOULD GET GOING OLD MAN
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU
GROK...

hey... son of Genza Amachi, the sword maker...
are you just going to watch and stand aside despite the fact that this world is now full of blood
MY GOAL IS ONLY ONE...
.....
I'M LOOKING FOR A SAMURAI WITH A SCAR ON HIS FACE !!
THAT'S ALL...

you want to embroil yourself in a war but you don't even have a sword!
this is a gift...
YAT BRAND SAKE
TEP!
GREET
IHC
GRUNG...

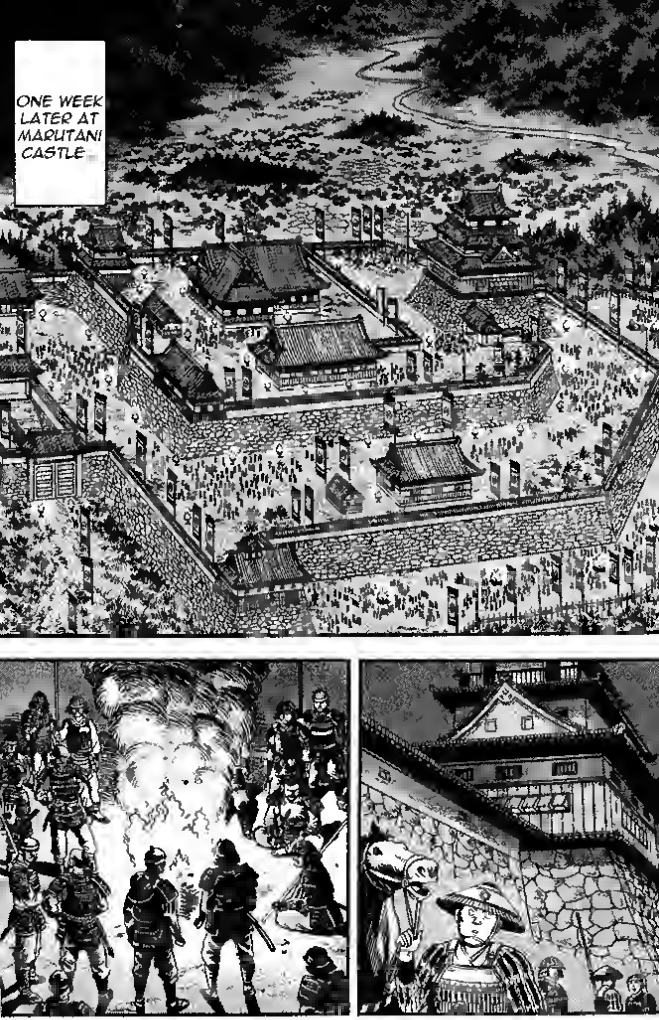
what the
you
SYUT
CRAASSH
HEY !!!!
KREEK...
TES...
KRAK
BRAK...
SYUUR...
ha !!
.....!!

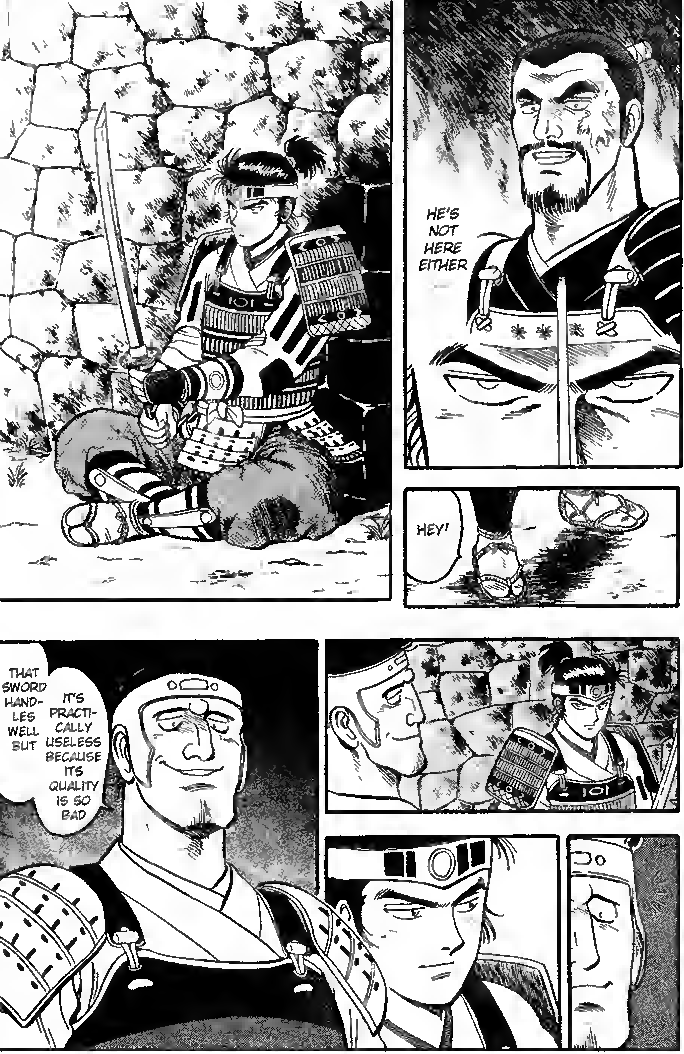
HMM . WHAT A NICE SWORD!


WHAT
WHAT ...
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING !!!!

IT'S A TECHNIQUE TO DRAIN OFF SAKE
OLD MAN, THERE IS STILL SOME SAKE LEFT, RIGHT?

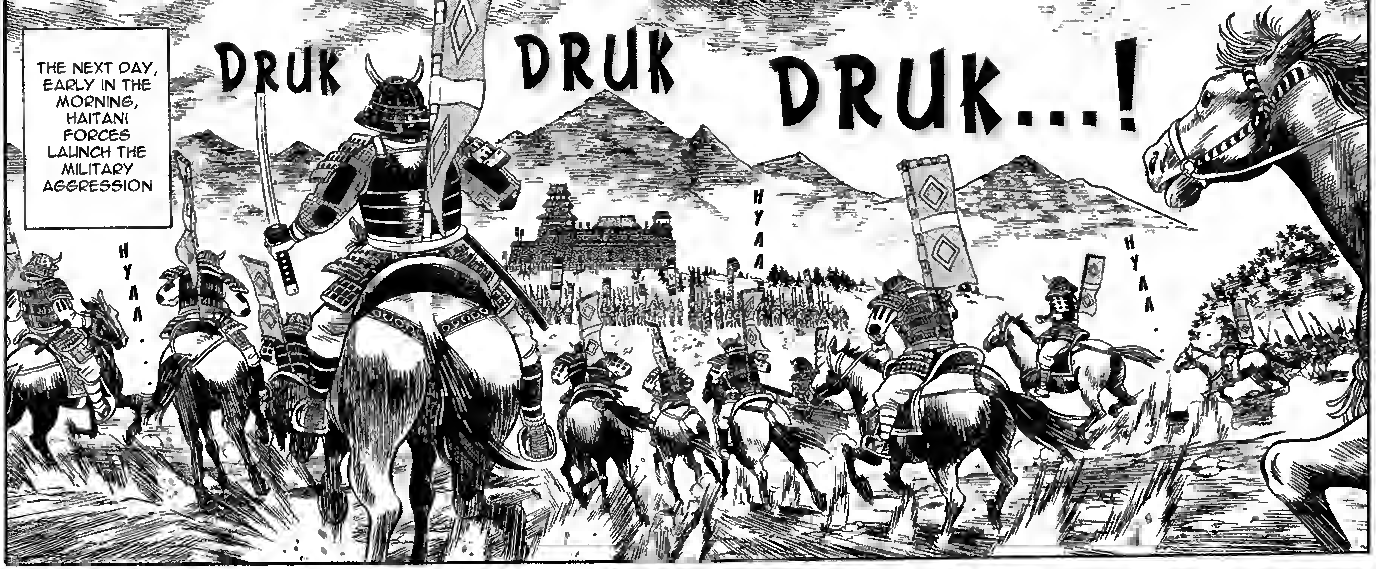
Is he really Genza's son...?
Huh
Genza Amachi...
before I died...
I wanted to meet you one more time...


ONE WEEK LATER AT MARUTANI CASTLE


HE'S NOT HERE EITHER
HEY!
THAT SWORD HANDLES WELL BUT
IT'S PRACTICALLY USELESS BECAUSE ITS QUALITY IS SO BAD

SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'RE FULL OF CONFI-DENCE !!
THE NAME'S MIYAMATSU ARAKI AND YOU! ??
NAGAHISA AMACHI
KLEK
I'M ALSO A HIRED SWORD
IN CASE YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHICH GROUP ARE YOU IN ??
THE ONE THAT HAS TO DEFEND THE CASTLE
HE HE HE IT'S GREAT RIGHT ?
LOOKS LIKE HAITANI TROOPS ARE GATHERING JUST OUTSIDE THE CASTLE
NO WONDER THE MARUTANI SOLDIERS HERE ARE MOTIVATED
BUT IT WON'T ACTUALLY DO US ANY GOOD AT ALL
THOSE SOLDIERS OVER THERE ARE PLANNING TO ESCAPE TONIGHT
HE HE HE NOW ABOUT THAT NAGAHISA?

I DON'T WANT TO DO A THING LIKE THAT
EVEN IF YOU LOSE A WAR THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOME SURVIVORS LEFT!
THERE ARE CASUALTIES EVEN IF YOU WIN THE WAR AND
YOU'RE GOOD!
WANT TO JOIN ME AND DO SOMETHING BIG?
HOW ABOUT IT?
I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING I AM LOOKING FOR A PARTNER!
WE WOULD BE FAMOUS !!
YEAH !! MAKING A BIG NAME AND A LARGE FORTUNE FOR OURSELVES AND THINGS LIKE THAT
SOMETHING BIG ??


THE NEXT DAY, EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAITANI FORCES LAUNCH THE MILITARY AGGRESSION
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK...!
HYAA.
HYAA.
HYAA.

HYAA.
HYAA.
HYAA...

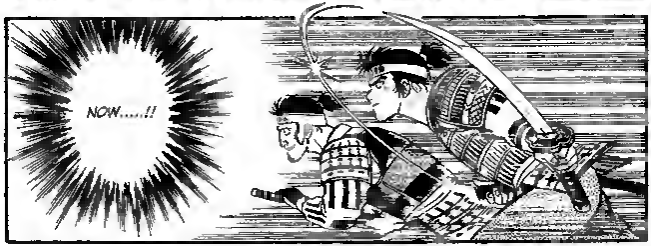
HYAA...
HYAA.
HYAA...
HYAA...

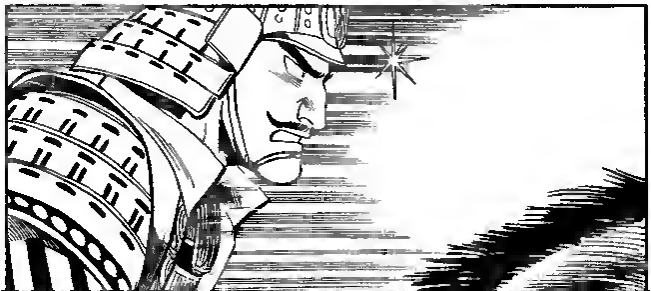
HYAA...
HYAA...
HYAA...
REPORT !!
OUR FORCES ON THE WESTERN FLANK HAVE SUCCESFULLY ELIMINATED THE ENEMY !! MARUTANI SOLDIERS ARE FALLING APART RIGHT NOW !!
GREAT !! DESTROY THEM ALL AND PLANT OUR FLAG AT THE CASTLE !!
HE HE HE HE BECAUSE WE LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK I BET THEIR MORALE IS GONE FOR SURE !!
Yamamata Isogaigen
Haitani Commander
BUT I THINK IT WILL TAKE A WHILE TO PLANT THAT FLAG !!

IT SEEMS THAT YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT,
MY LORD YAMAMOTO
HRRRR...
HO HO HO !! THAT'S OKAY !!
YOU KNOW ? I FELT SATISFIED RIGHT NOW !!
MY LORD YAMAMOTO !! SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED !! WE RUSHED BACK HERE TO TELL YOU !!
HUH ? ??
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ??
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK

THERE ARE THREE HORSES! NAGAHISA, YAMAMOTO'S NECK IS YOURS !!
OKAY !!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM !!
DRUM
DRUM
DRUM


NOW.....!!



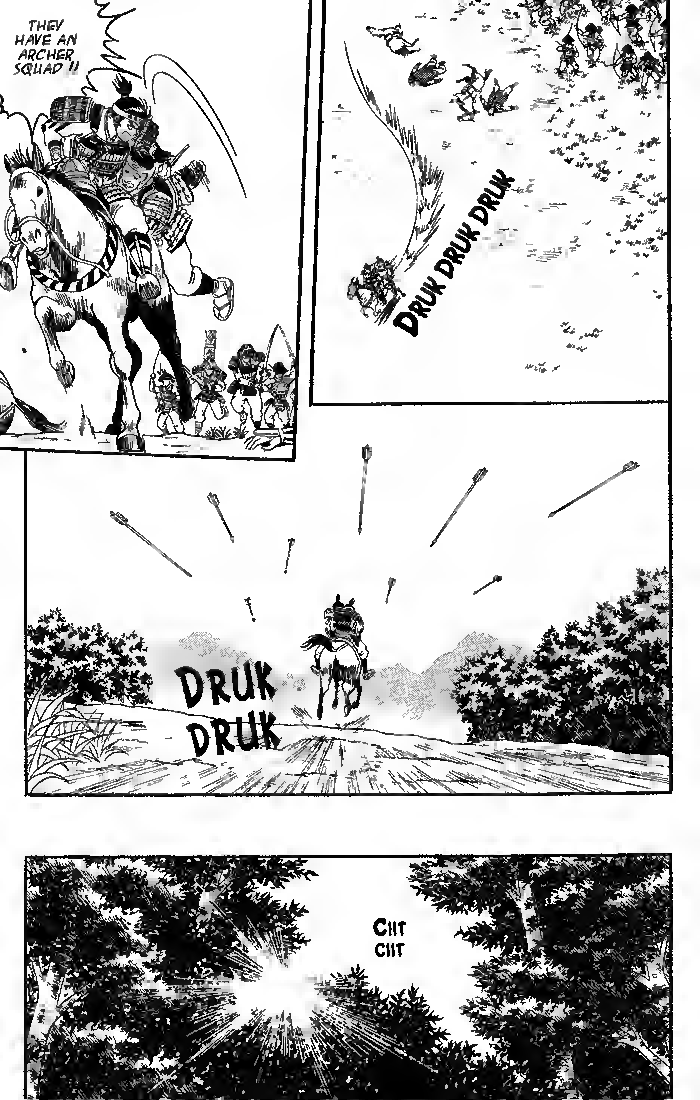
DRUK DRUK
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SURRENDER ALREADY !!!
SREET
HHEEEH...
IN YOUR DREAMS !!!!
LORD YAMAMOTO !!!
WHUT
TSS...
HAH!!

DRUK DRUK DRUK

Wooosh...
TAKE THIS !!!
IDIOTS !!
SRAK

HAH...!!
SRAAK

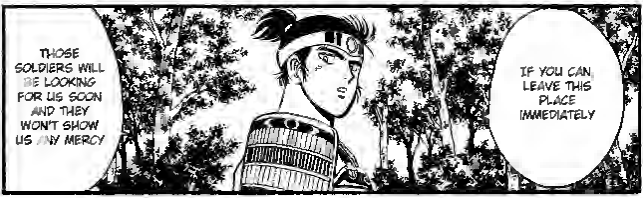
BRUGH
WET
WET
HE HE HE HE
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN !!!
AAAAH-HHH !!
MIYAMATSU, THAT'S ENOUGH !! GET ON !!
HE HE HE... YOU GUYS ARE HERE NOW BUT IT'S TOO LATE !!


THEY HAVE AN ARCHER SQUAD !!
DRUK DRUK DRUK
DRUK DRUK
CHIT CHIT

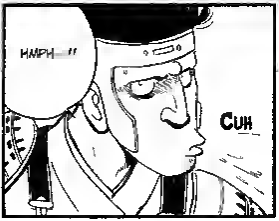
MARUTANI CASTLE HAS COMPLETELY FALLEN TO THE ENEMY !!
THIS IS WEIRD... WE LOST THE WAR BUT WE GOT THE COMMANDER'S HEAD !!
GUDUM
GUDUM
THAT IS A FINE ACCOMPLISHMENT !!
HAITANI TROOPS ATTACKED US BUT LOOK AT US NOW !!
SOON THEY WILL BEGIN TO SEARCH AND HUNT DOWN THE MISSING SIDE SOLDIERS
I CAME ACROSS THAT LAST TIME !!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW ??
I DON'T KNOW...
WE ARE PARTNERS RIGHT ??
ALTHOUGH NO ONE WANTS TO HIRE US WE CAN TRY TO EARN SOME MONEY OUR OWN WAY !!

HOW ABOUT WE GATHER SOME SOLDIERS AND START SOMETHING??
HE HE HE WE COULD GET SOMETHING NICE QUICKLY
NOT INTERESTED !!
YOUR LIFE AMBITION SEEMS WRONG !!
MY AMBITION ??
AS A FRIEND I WILL TAG ALONG WITH YOU,
BUT AS A BANDIT I'M SORRY I DON'T WISH TO DO IT!
HEY !! IDIOT WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE !!!!
AS A HIRED SWORD WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO KILL AND JUST KILL WE NEVER REGRET ANYTHING ABOUT THAT !!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS YOU CAN'T ALWAYS ACT LIKE A NICE GUY !!
HAH HAH HAH
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO ON YOUR OWN THEN
YOUR IDEALS ARE WRONG !!

HMPH !!
AS YOU
WISH !!!


THOSE SOLDIERS WILL BE LOOKING FOR US SOON AND THEY WON'T SHOW US ANY MERCY
IF YOU CAN, LEAVE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY

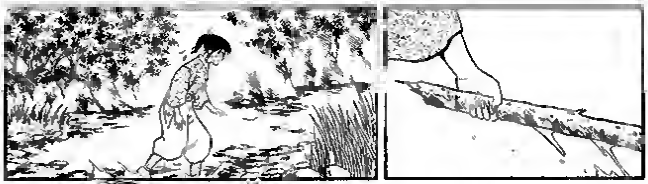
YOU CAN HAVE THE HORSE!

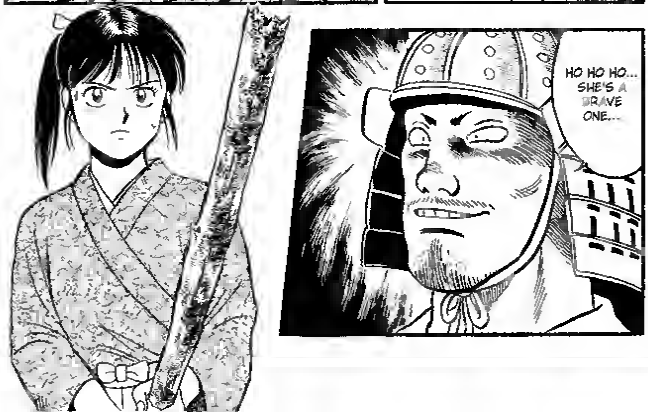

HMPH...!!
CUH

CREK CREK
101
THE PURSUIT TEAM ??
CREK
CREK
A GIRL...
HAH HAH HAH
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE ANYWAY...
CREK CREK
IT'S USELESS TO TRY TO RUN AWAY FROM US...
HE HE HE WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP ALREADY ??
CREK
CREK

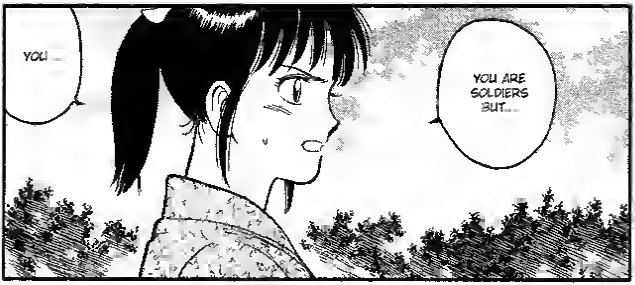
SHE SEEMS TO BE A GOOD LOOKING GIRL
DON'T LET HER KNOW WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO TO HER !!

THEY'RE HAITANI SOLDIERS... THEY SEARCH FOR REFUGEES IN A PLACE LIKE THIS TOO ??




HO HO HO... SHE'S A BRAVE ONE...

CREK CREK
CREK CREK
HE HE HE... IF YOU HIT US WE WILL HIT YOU BACK...


YOU...
YOU ARE SOLDIERS BUT...

HMM
WUUSSH
SHOULD I HELP HER OR NOT... HMM...

IF YOU WISH TO PLAY WITH US
WE WILL LET YOU LIVE!
EVEN THOUGH YOU GET YOUR PLEASURE I DON'T THINK YOU WILL LIVE THAT LONG !!
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON A FEMALE SAMURAI !!
SIS !!
YUKI !!!
Although you killed yourself you still lost your virginity !!

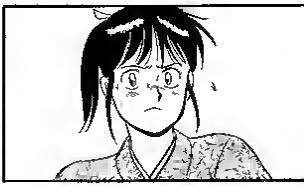
DON'T COME NEAR ME !!
DO IT IF YOU WANT !!
CRASH
WHUUT
CRIK

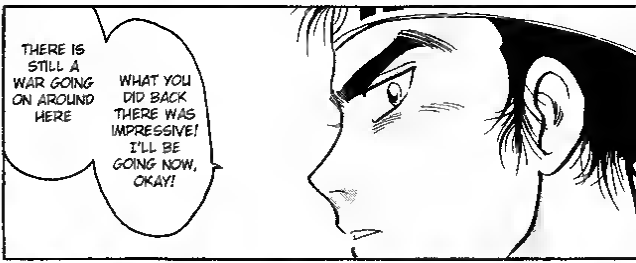
THIS IDIOT IS A MARUTANI SOLDIER !!
I'M YOUR OPPONENT !!
GIVE IT UP !!
HYAA!!

TAKE THAT !!!!
SHIT
BYUUR

GYUT

CRING




THERE IS STILL A WAR GOING ON AROUND HERE
WHAT YOU DID BACK THERE WAS IMPRESSIVE! I'LL BE GOING NOW, OKAY!

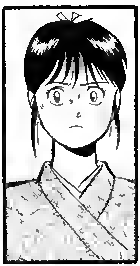
MAY I GO WITH YOU ??

IF YOU WANT ME TO PROTECT YOU I'M SORRY BUT I DO NOT WISH TO DO IT!
TAP

IT'S ONLY TO THE NEAREST VILLAGE
AT LEAST UNTIL THE ROAD...
CAN I COME ??

DON'T BE MISTAKEN ABOUT MY HELP BACK THERE !!

I'M JUST THE SAME AS THEM !!



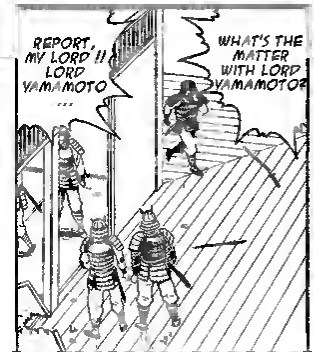
PLEASE...

GET
IF YOU JUST WANT TO JUST FOLLOW ME AROUND
DO AS YOU WISH !!
YAY!
NAGAHISA
IF YOU KEEP COMPLAINING, DON'T TAKE HER WITH YOU !!
HMPH

HOSHI NO KEN

Marutani Castle
HA HA HA HA
HEIHACHI KAKIMOTO, RULER OF MARUTANI CASTLE
LOOKS LIKE HE WAS A MAN WHO PREFERRED TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHER THINGS RATHER THAN HIS MILITARY POWER !! HE HE.

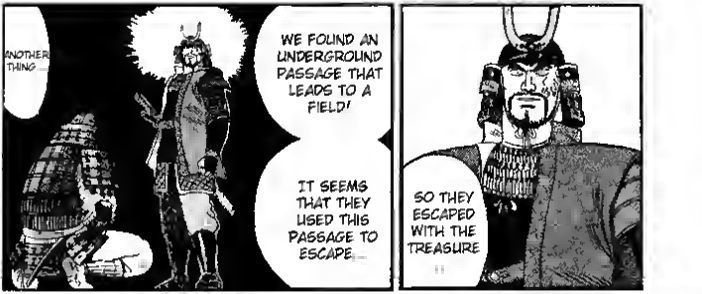
TOO BAD YOU WERE BORN IN A BAD TIME...


REPORT, MY LORD !! LORD YAMAMOTO ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH LORD YAMAMOTO?

MY LORD ...
TELL ME THE REPORT !!

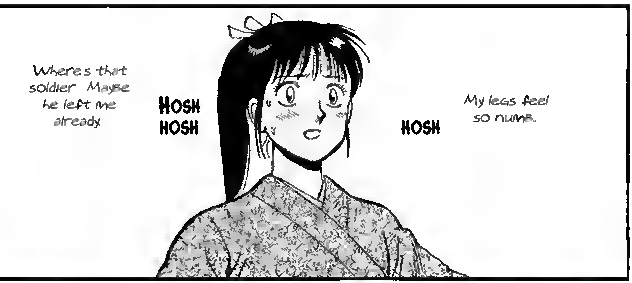
LORD YAMAMOTO WAS AMBUSHED BY SOME UNKNOWN SOLDIERS AND HAS PASSED AWAY !!!
THANKS FOR THE REPORT !! I WILL TAKE OVER FROM NOW ON !!
PROK
SUMMON THE ELITE GUARDS NOW !!
VICE COMMANDER MITSUMARU YAMATO
REPORT, MY LORD
GO AHEAD

WE'VE SEARCHED THE BARN !!
BUT WE COULDN'T FIND THE TREASURE !!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HID INSIDE THE BARN AND MANAGED TO FLEE WITH THE TREASURE!
YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN AWARE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT !!
WHATEVER IT TAKES I WANT YOU TO FIND THAT TREASURE !!!!


ANOTHER THING...
WE FOUND AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE THAT LEADS TO A FIELD!
IT SEEMS THAT THEY USED THIS PASSAGE TO ESCAPE...
SO THEY ESCAPED WITH THE TREASURE !!

MY LORD MITSUMARU, INSIDE THE CASTLE THERE'S ONLY HEIHACHI KAKIMOTO'S CORPSE. THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ANOTHER DEAD BODY BUT WE COULDN'T FIND IT
WHAT ??
HEIHACHI KAKIMOTO HAD A DAUGHTER...
SHE SHOULD BE ABOUT 15 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR...
SHE'S PRINCESS MIZUKI

OUCH...!
Fiuh


Where's that soldier. Maybe he left me already.
HOSH HOSH
HOSH
My legs feel so numb.

THE ELITE GUARDS ARE HERE, MY LORD !!
AND I HEARD THAT PRINCESS MIZUKI IS GOING TO GET MARRIED NEXT MONTH AT THE WESTERN COUNTRY IN SHIBATAKE
I HAVE A FEELING THAT SHE WILL BE HEADING TO THAT PLACE!

OKAY! TELL THE GUARDS TO CHASE HER AND BLOCK THE PATH TO THE WESTERN COUNTRY
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T FAIL ME THIS TIME !!

Mosh Mosh
Mosh Mosh

GREK
CRUNCH

THAT PLACE IS SO FAR. I FEEL SO HOPELESS ALREADY!

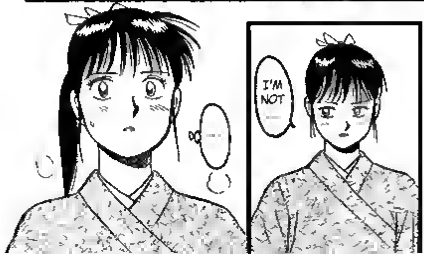
!!

SREK

SREK

YOU'RE STILL WAITING FOR ME?

THIS PATH IS HARD. NO ONE HAS EVER TAKEN A PATH LIKE THIS BEFORE
AND YOU ARE JUST A LITTLE GIRL
SREK
I THOUGHT YOU HAD GIVEN UP ALREADY BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP GOING


I'M NOT

HMM

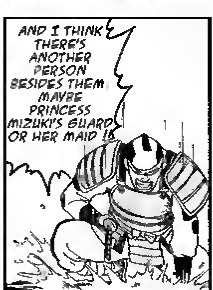
SYUT
TAKE THIS!
WHAT'S THIS ?
IT'S A STICK!
IT'S BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT TO WALK ON THIS PATH
THIS STICK IS FOR ME...?
AH! IF I USE THIS STICK I CAN...
TOK TOK
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU
UMMM
WHAT'S WRONG ..??

YOUR NAME...
MAY I KNOW...
NAGAHISA
NAGAHISA AMACHI
MY NAME...
MY NAME IS MIZUKI
NAGAHISA

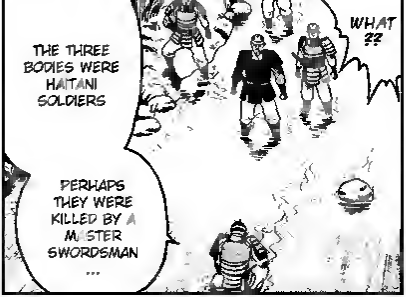
HOW COULD PRINCESS MIZUKI HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM A ROUTE LIKE THIS?
THERE ARE NO GUARDS AT ALL IN THIS PLACE?
JUDGING FROM THE FOOTPRINTS, WE CAN TELL THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE INCLUDING PRINCESS MIZUKI

IF THEY WALK THROUGH THIS RIVER THEY WOULD NEVER GET LOST AND THEY COULD ADVANCE TO THE WESTERN COUNTRY EASILY !!

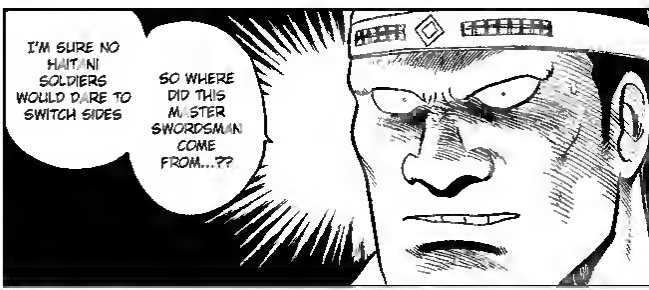
REPORT! THERE ARE THREE DEAD BODIES AT THE UPPER COURSE OF THE RIVER
WHAT !!


AND I THINK THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON BESIDES THEM MAYBE PRINCESS MIZUKI'S GUARD OR HER MAID !!

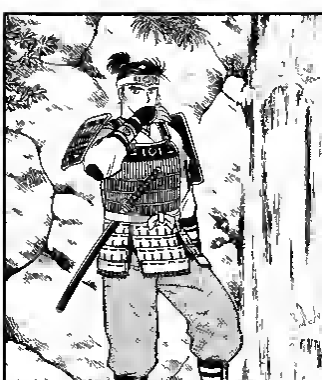
SO THERE'S ANOTHER ONE... HUH ??


THE THREE BODIES WERE HAITANI SOLDIERS
WHAT ??
PERHAPS THEY WERE KILLED BY A MASTER SWORDSMAN ...

THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE AT FIRST AND NOW IT'S ONLY PRINCESS MIZUKI!


I'M SURE NO HAITANI SOLDIERS WOULD DARE TO SWITCH SIDES
SO WHERE DID THIS MASTER SWORDSMAN COME FROM...??

ZAAAS...



AAAH
I NEVER KNEW WATER COULD FEEL AS GOOD LIKE THIS!
NOW I KNOW IT...
THE SCENERY AROUND HERE IS SO BEAUTIFUL TOO...

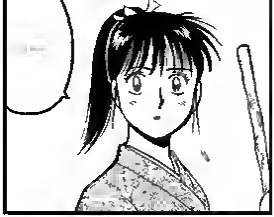
IT'S SO INCREDIBLE !!
BUT IF WE LOOK DOWNSTREAM WE CAN SEE THERE'S A WAR GOING ON,
WE CAN SMELL THE BLOOD'S PUTRID SCENT AND MANY BAD THINGS ARE HAPPENING DOWN THERE !!
.....

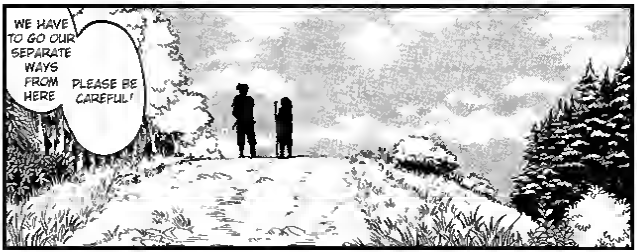
DAD...
MOM..
GYUUT
ZAAAAS
MIZUKI, LET'S GO!
OKAY!

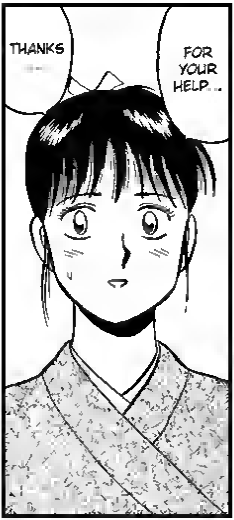
WE CAN SEE THE ROAD NOW
IF WE TAKE THE RIGHT ROUTE WE WILL GO TO THE EAST AND THE LEFT ONE MUST BE HEADING WEST

I WILL TAKE THE LEFT ONE ...TO THE WESTERN COUNTRY
TO SHIBATA ...??
THAT'S FAR !!
HOW ABOUT YOU NAGAHISA ??
I WANT TO GO TO THE HATAGO MAIN ROAD THEN FIND A PLACE TO REST FOR A WHILE!
THEN I WILL GO BACK TO "BUY SOME WARS"
"BUY SOME WARS" ??
IT MEANS THAT WHENEVER A WAR OCCURS SOMEONE WILL HIRE ME
THAT'S MY JOB!
WELL I GET HIRED BY PEOPLE WHO NEED MY HELP WHENEVER THERE IS A WAR BUT I ALSO WORK FOR ANYONE WHO PAYS WHEN THERE'S NO WAR HAPPENING!
BESIDES THAT I AM ALSO SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE
SOME ONE?
A GIRL ?
IF YOU GET PAID
THAT'S GOOD! NAGAHISA, WHO'S HIRING YOU?

HA HA HA... NO IT'S A MAN
I'M LOOKING FOR A VICE COMMANDER WHO HAS A SCAR ON HIS FACE




WE HAVE TO GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS FROM HERE
PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

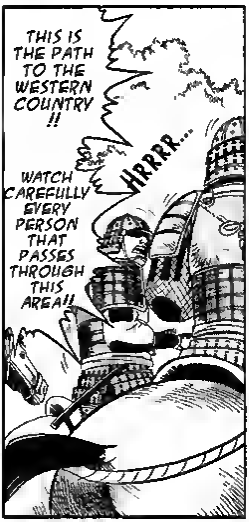

THANKS...
FOR YOUR HELP...

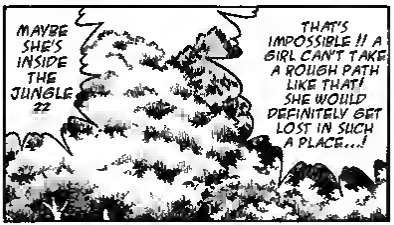
YOU'RE WELCOME
101

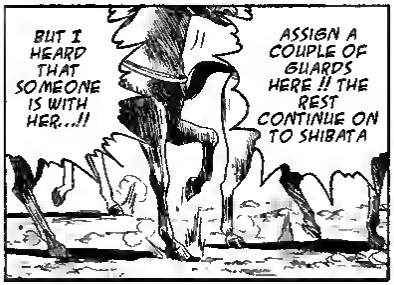
SEE YOU THEN
...

HYAA
DRUK DRUK DRUK
MOUNTED TROOPS...?!
DRUK DRUK DRUK
DRUK DRUK DRUK
THIS WAY MIZUKI !!!
HAITANI SOLDIERS !!!

SET
THEY'VE JUST GONE THROUGH A TIRING WAR. THEY MUST BE VERY FEROCIOUS RIGHT NOW
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN !!
YES...
DEG
DEG
DEG
DEG
DEG




MAYBE SHE'S INSIDE THE JUNGLE ZZ
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE !! A GIRL CAN'T TAKE A ROUGH PATH LIKE THAT! SHE WOULD DEFINITELY GET LOST IN SUCH A PLACE...!



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HEY !! YOU TOLD ME SHE'S A GOOD LOOKING FIFTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL !!
BUT IF SHE'S NOT PRETTY I'M SURE WE WOULDN'T BE AWARE OF THAT EITHER !!
I REALLY WANT TO MEET THIS...
PRINCESS MIZUKI !!
.....!! MIZUKI !!
SO YOU ...!
HE HE ! YOU KEEP SAYING YOU WANT TO MEET THE PRINCESS, MAYBE YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO HER ESPECIALLY THAT...
HEY !! YOU SOUND LIKE A PER-VERTED OLD MAN!
IF LORD MITSUMARU HEARD THAT I'M SURE YOU WOULD HAVE LOST YOUR HEAD IMMEDIATELY !!

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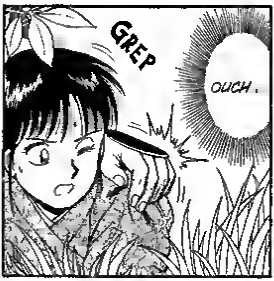
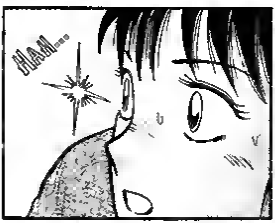
ISN'T LORD MITSUMARU GOING TO TAKE THE PLACE OF LORD YAMAMOTO, WHO DIED IN THIS WAR? NOW HE'S THE NEW RULER OF MARUTAN! CASTLE
I HEARD THAT LORD MITSUMARU IS A GREAT MAN BUT I'VE NEVER MEET HIM IN PERSON
HA HA HA... IF YOU MEET LORD MITSUMARU ONE DAY, I THINK YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF!





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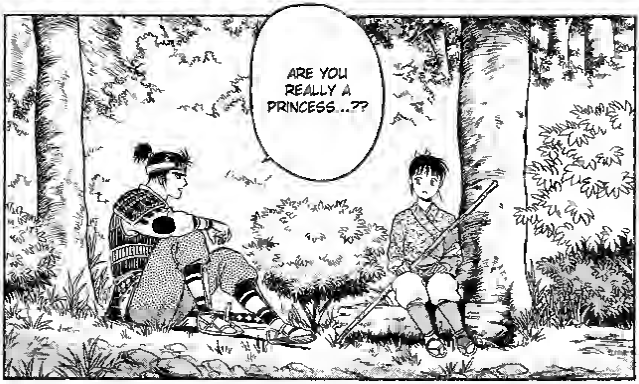
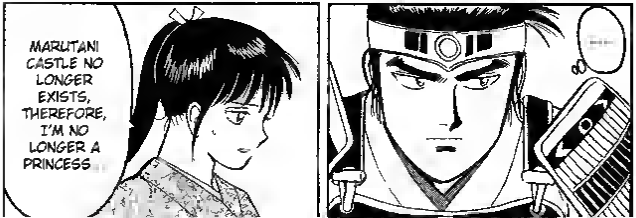
THAT SWORD ....
IT'S A REALLY NICE SWORD INDEED HE HE HE... GENZA AMACHI...
I WILL GIVE YOU SOME-THING IN RETURN FOR THIS SWORD !!
A TASTE OF YOUR STAR SWORD !!


ARE YOU REALLY A PRINCESS..??

IF YOU REALLY ARE ONE, I THINK I MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING IMPOLITE..
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT ANYMORE!
YOU ARE A NICE GENTLEMAN NAGAHISA !!
I WILL ALWAYS THINK OF YOU THAT WAY !!


MARUTANI CASTLE NO LONGER EXISTS, THEREFORE, I'M NO LONGER A PRINCESS
...

WELL, WE CAN ONLY DO TWO THINGS FOR NOW...
FIRST, I THINK YOU SHOULD CANCEL YOUR PLANS TO GO TO THE WESTERN COUNTRY
AND THE OTHER ONE...

YOUR FATHER'S ENEMY AND MINE...
TURNED OUT TO BE THE SAME GUY !!

...
THEN...
IF I AM WITH YOU, WE WILL MAKE IT
WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER, KEEP MOVING AND I'M SURE WE CAN DO IT...

IT WILL BE DARK SOON, WE'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT!
I WILL FIND SOME-THING FOR US TO EAT
ME TOO...
MIZUKI, YOU HAVE WALKED ENOUGH FOR TODAY
WHY DON'T YOU JUST REST HERE A BIT! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
IS...
IS THAT SO...
SORRY...

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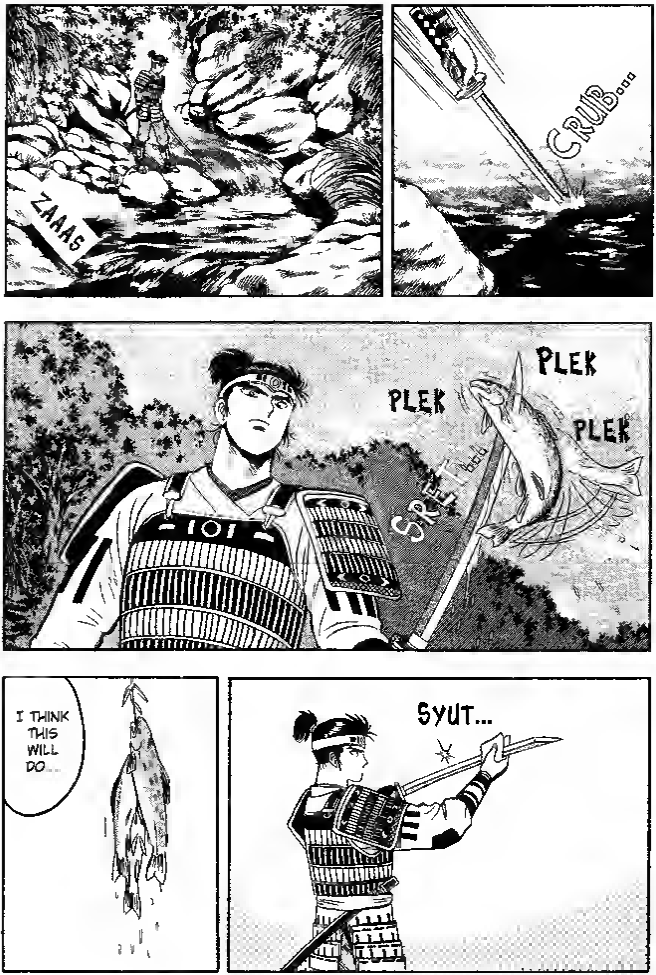

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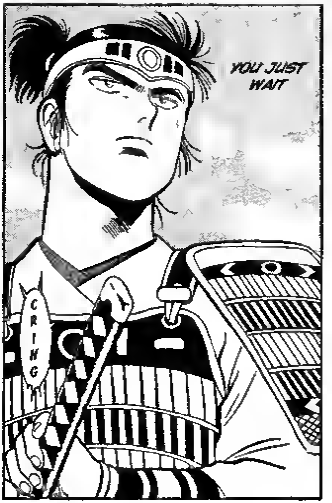

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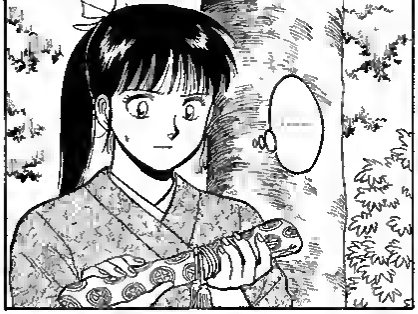
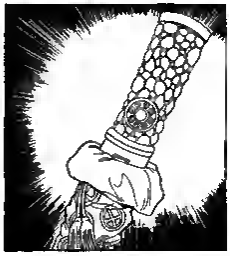
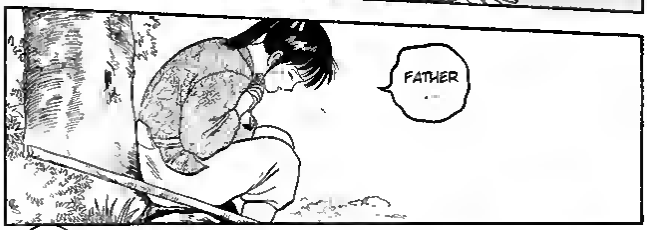




THE TREASURE'S LOCATION IS CARVED ON THIS KNIFE
TAKE IT TO SHIBATAKE ..


FATHER ...

SREK..

NAGA-HISA ...

HA...
DON'T EVEN TRY TO SCREAM !!
OR DO YOU WANT TO DIE BY MY HANDS, YOUNG LADY ??

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DAMN IT !!!
HE HE HE... I GOT YOU NOW NAGAHISA !!
HE GAVE ME THIS HORSE AND I THINK HE'LL REGRET IT NOW !!
DRUK DRUK DRUK
AND
I GOT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE THIS TOO !!
HYAAAA!!

DRUK DRUK DRUK
DRUK DRUK DRUK
WHAT THE ..??

HIEEEH

HOW COME THERE'S A FALLEN TREE ON THE ROAD ?? HEY JUMP OVER IT...!!
COME ON !! TRY TO PASS IT FROM BELOW !!!

A HORSE IS NOT A DUMB ANIMAL...!
HA
IF THERE IS AN OBSTACLE AS HIGH AS ITS NECK, A HORSE SURELY CAN'T JUMP OVER IT!!
NAGA-HISA...
MIYAMATSU... HAND OVER THE GIRL!
ZAAS
ZAAS
101
I... I'LL GIVE HER BACK
YOU WANT HER BACK, RIGHT??
I WILL...
I WILL GIVE THIS BACK TO YOU!!!
DRE

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IF YOU'RE DRAWING A SWORD WHILE ON YOUR HORSE, YOU HAVE TO THRUST IT DOWN FIRST, NOT SWING IT.
AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO GUARD YOUR OTHER SIDE, TOO
- 101 -
ERR... OKAY... OKAY...

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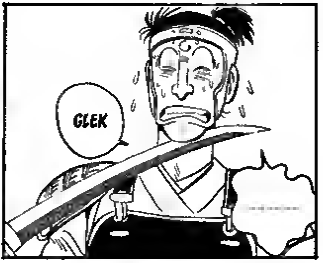

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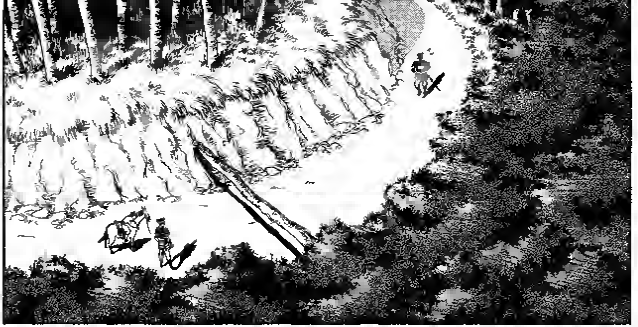

I HOPE HE LEARNS FROM HIS MISTAKES... MIYAMATSU ARAKI IS A SLOPPY GUY...

WHERE SHOULD I GO NOW ?

SYUUT

I CAN LEAVE MIZUKI THERE

OH THAT'S RIGHT... THAT OLD BLACK-SMITH'S HUT IS NOT FAR FROM HERE...

WHAT AN OBSTINATE OLD MAN...

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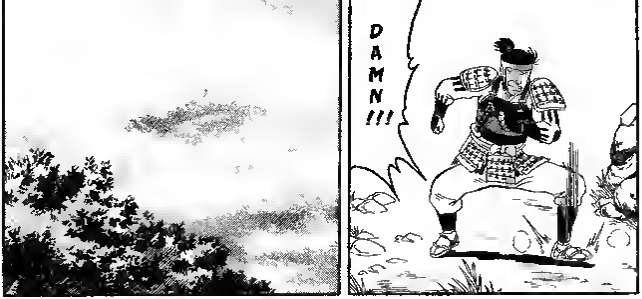

DRUK DRUK DRUK
HEY YOU THERE !! HAVE YOU SEEN A GIRL FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY ?? A BEAUTIFUL GIRL ABOUT 15 YEARS OLD ??
DRUK DRUK
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY SHE'S ACCOMPANIED BY A SAMURAI
TWO PEOPLE, A GIRL AND A SAMURAI...??

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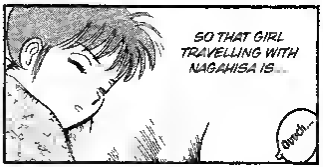
WHO ARE THEY ...??
WE ONLY KNOW THAT THE GIRL IS A PRINCESS FROM MARUTANI CASTLE
IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING TELL US! THERE ARE REWARDS FOR THEM

A PRINCESS ???

HEY !! DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ???


SO THAT GIRL TRAVELLING WITH NAGAHISA IS...
Ooooh...

TWO PEOPLE RIGHT? OF COURSE I SAW THEM !!

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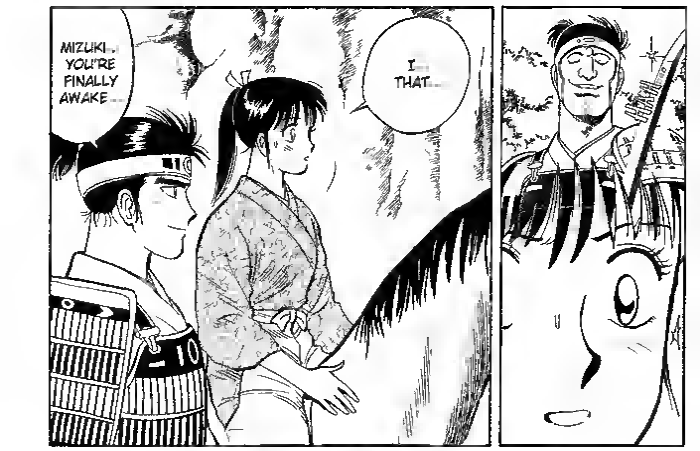

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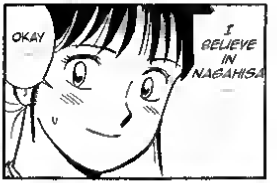
THAT GUY IS MIYAMATSU ARAKI, A FRIEND OF MINE
THIS HORSE IS A LITTLE PRESENT FROM HIM

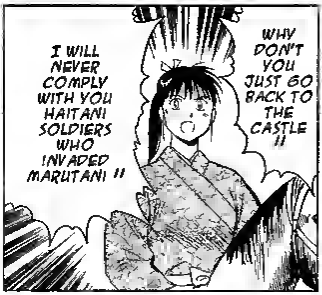
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO RIDE IT...
IS THAT OKAY ??

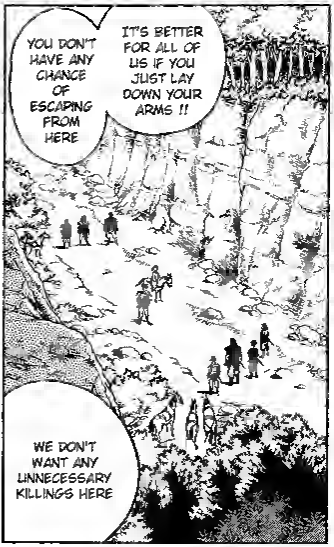
DON'T MIND IT. BOTH OF YOUR LEGS SEEM TO BE IN BAD CONDITION
I WILL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN REST
I HAVE A BLACKSMITH FRIEND AND HIS HOUSE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER


OKAY
I BELIEVE IN NAGAHISA

SAT
SAT
BEHIND US TOO...!!
HATANI SOLDIERS ...
101

THE GIRL ON THE HORSE MUST BE HEIHACHI KAKIMOTO'S DAUGHTER FROM MARUTANI CASTLE
SHE'S PRINCESS MIZUKI !!
YOU NEED TO COME WITH US, YOUR HIGHNESS




YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHANCE OF ESCAPING FROM HERE
IT'S BETTER FOR ALL OF US IF YOU JUST LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS !!
WE DON'T WANT ANY UNNECESSARY KILLINGS HERE

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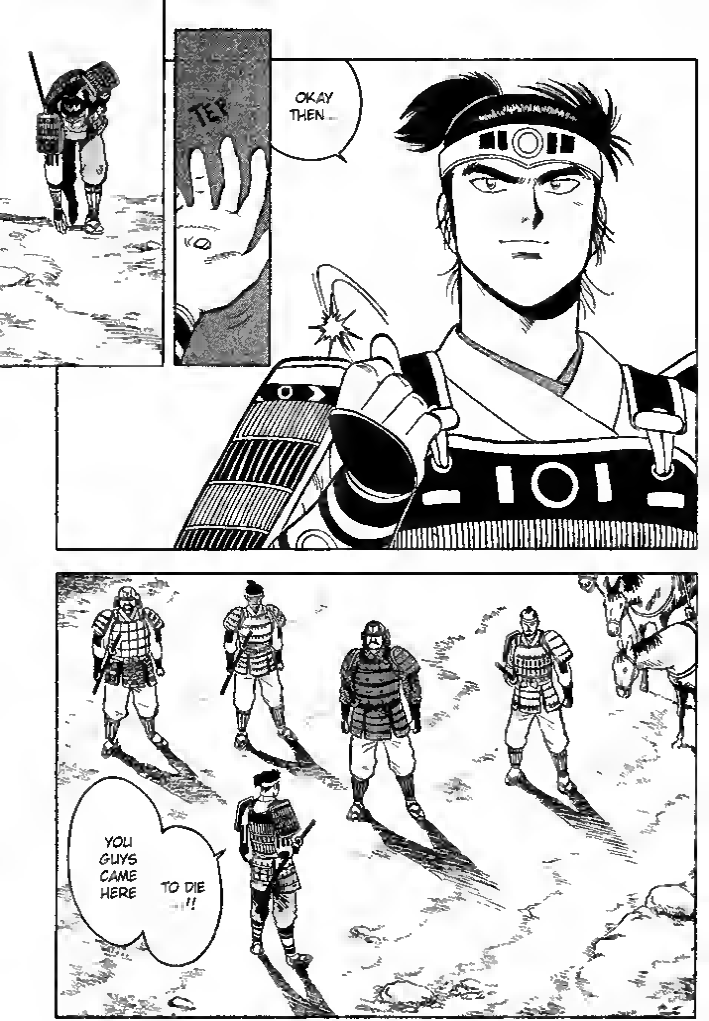
NAGAHISA, GET ON THE HORSE...
WE WILL FORCE OUR WAY OUT !!
HER PERSONALITY CHANGED SO SUDDENLY
I HAVE AN IDEA...
HRRRR...
YOUR LEGS ARE WOUNDED AND IF WE BOTH RIDE ON THIS HORSE I'M SURE THEY WILL CATCH UP, SOONER OR LATER

I HAVE TO HOLD THESE GUYS EVEN THOUGH I'LL BE RACING WITH TIME TO DO IT

MIZUKI, WHEN I GIVE YOU A SIGNAL I WANT YOU TO DASH WITH THAT HORSE AS FAST AS YOU CAN
KEEP GOING AND DON'T EVER LOOK BACK
ZAAS
ZAAS
EH... BUT.

DON'T WORRY I WILL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU !!
I WON'T DIE UNTIL I HAVE MITSUMARU YAMATO'S HEAD !!
ER.. O... OKAY..!!
HEY !! CHECK OUT THAT HORSE, AND THAT SADDLE
EHH YOU'RE RIGHT !! ISN'T THAT COMMANDER YAMAMOTO'S FAVORITE HORSE? I HEARD THAT HIS HEAD WAS CUT OFF BY SOME GUERILLAS!
SO THAT MEANS THAT GUY IS...
THIS IS OUR LUCKY DAY
WE STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE!



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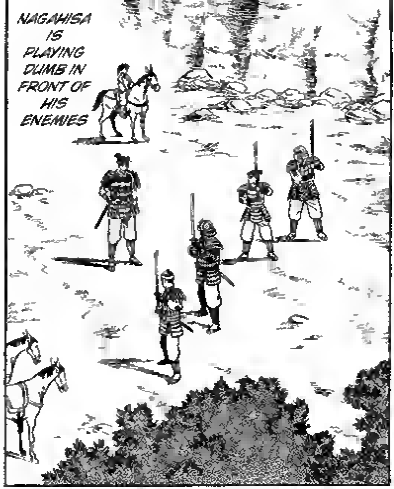

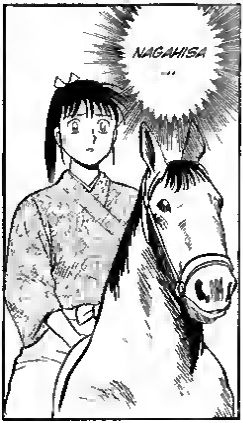

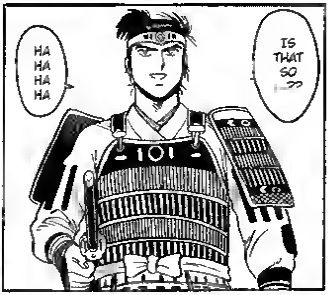

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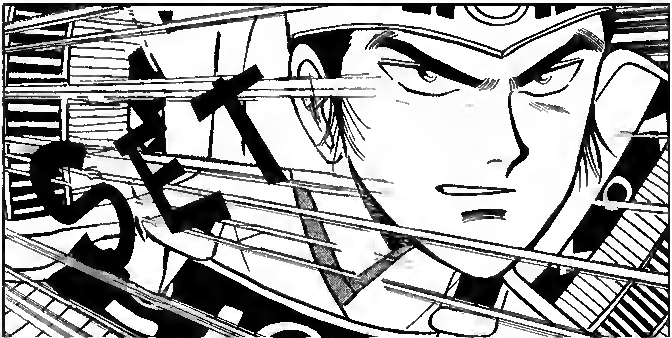
CLANG
HIEEEH...!
SRET


SET

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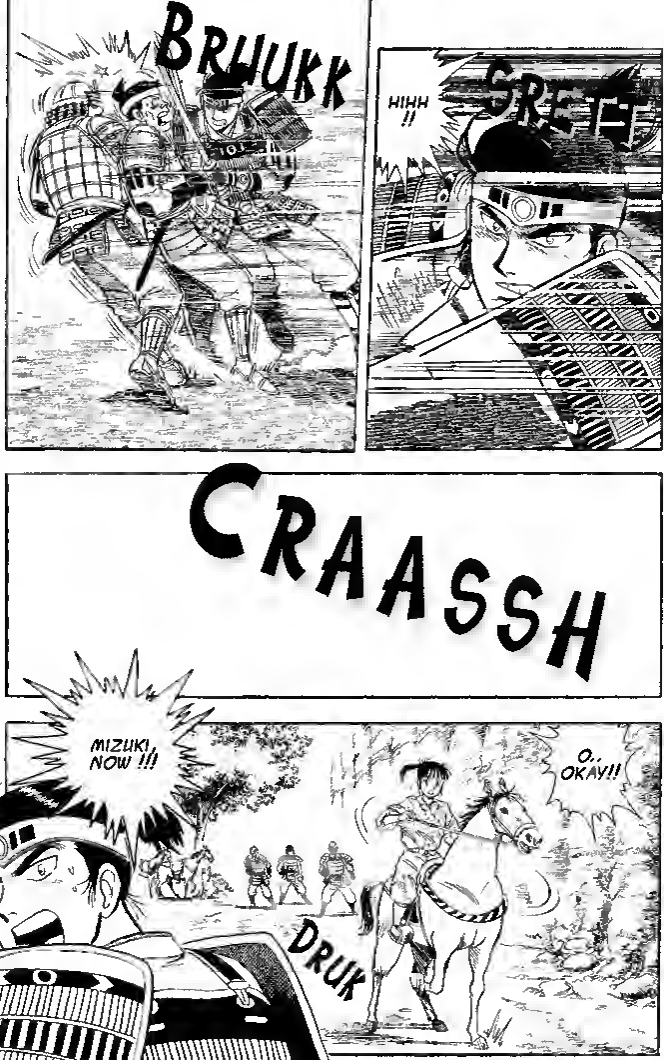

DRAGONS & TIGERS MANGA
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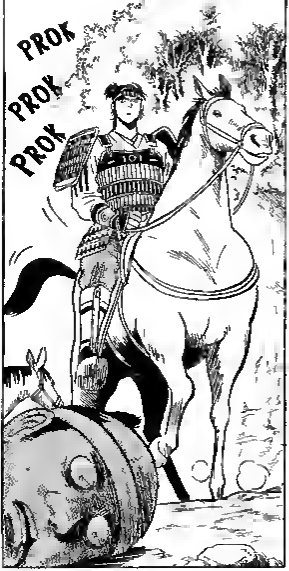
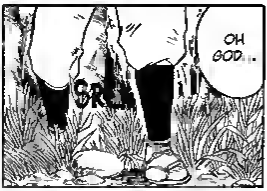
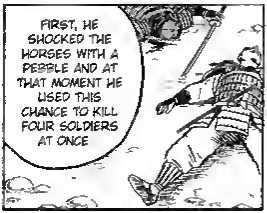
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
BLEG
BYE GUYS ....!!!
HEY !! THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY !!
CHASE AFTER THEM !!
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK

DRUK DRUK
HYYAAA!!!!
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK
HYYAAA!!!!







THEN HE PRETENDED TO RUN AWAY AND WHEN HE SAW THE OTHER SOLDIERS CHASING HIM, HE TURNED BACK...
THEN QUICKLY HE SPRINTED DOWNHILL AND KILLED THE OTHER THREE SOLDIERS IN A FLASH

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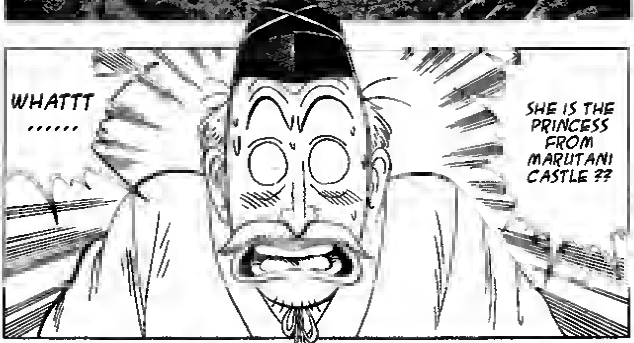
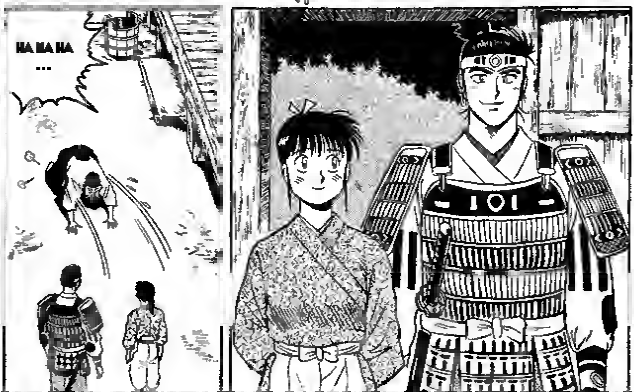
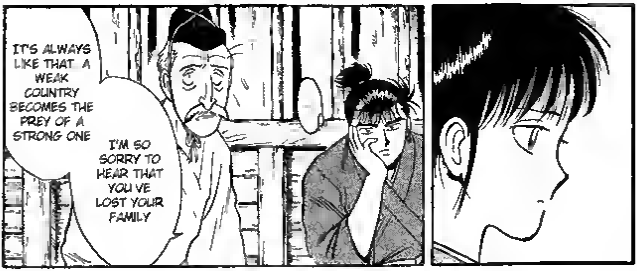
WHA
...


WHATTT
.....
SHE IS THE PRINCESS FROM MARUTANI CASTLE ??


HA HA HA
...

OH...
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS


IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT A WEAK COUNTRY BECOMES THE PREY OF A STRONG ONE
I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR FAMILY

IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR YOU, STAYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS,
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD GET SOME REST ANYWAY
OKAY!
THERE IS ONLY ONE FUTON AND IT'S SO BAD
IF YOU WANT MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SLEEP OUTSIDE !!
GRANDPA, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP !!
AH... YOU'RE WELCOME
WHY DO I ACT LIKE THIS...

NAGA-HISA
YOUR ENEMY WITH A SCAR OVER HIS LEFT EYE
HE IS THE NEW RULER OF MARUTANI, MITSUMARU...
AH...
THAT'S RIGHT !!
SO IT'S TRUE...
BY THE WAY, YOUR DAD WAS...
...
THAT TIME...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STAR SWORD ??

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HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE STAR SWORD ??
ONLY MY DAD AND HIS BLACKSMITH FRIEND, KOTETSU IZUMI, KNEW ABOUT THAT SWORD
IS THAT SO...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT SWORD AND YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO SURPRISED LIKE THAT
I WORKED WITH GENZA FOR YEARS SINCE WE WERE JUST AMATEURS...
AND THAT STAR SWORD WAS ONE OF OUR FINEST SWORDS !!
!!
SO... SO YOU ARE...
KOTETSU IZUMI THE FAMOUS BLACKSMITH ...!!

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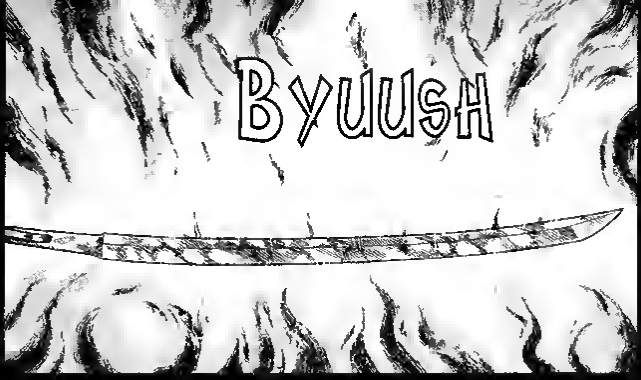
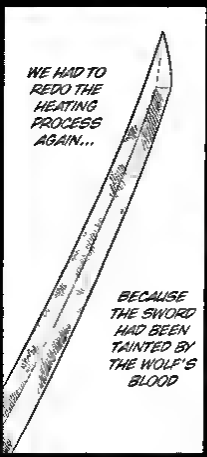
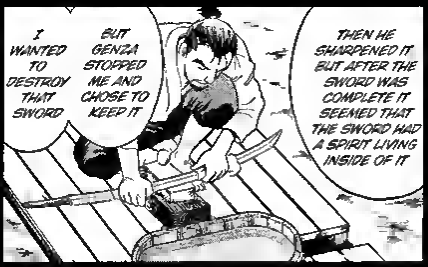
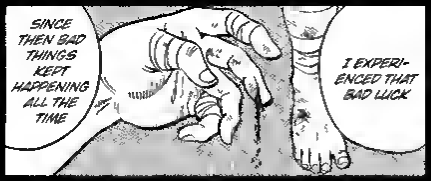
WE NAMED IT THE STAR SWORD THE MAKING OF THE SWORD WAS SO DIFFICULT
AND WE HAD TO PERFORM A TECHNIQUE CALLED CRYSTALLIZATION TO MAKE THE PERFECT SWORD
THIS FRAGMENT WOULD PRODUCE A SPECIAL SWORD AND WE BOTH KNEW IT
BUT SOMEHOW AN INCIDENT OCCURRED WHILE THE SWORD WAS STILL IN THE HEATING PROCESS
AS YOU KNOW THE HEATING PROCESS IS THE LAST PHASE OF THE SWORD MAKING PROCESS AND YOU REALLY NEED TO HAVE A GOOD FEELING TO COMPLETE IT
AFTER HEATING IT UNTIL IT TURNS RED, THE SWORD NEEDS TO COOL IN WATER.
THE TEMPERATURE OF THE SWORD WILL HAVE TO BE THE SAME AS THE WATER'S TEMPERATURE. ALL THESE THINGS ARE THE SECRET TECHNIQUES OF A BLACKSMITH. YOU CAN SAY WE GIVE LIFE TO A SWORD
I FELT NERVOUS WHEN I PUT THE SWORD INTO THE WATER
SUDDENLY A WOLF SNEAKED INTO OUR WORKPLACE
IT LOOKED LIKE THE WOLF WAS REALLY HUNGRY AND WITH JUST ONE GLANCE IT CHARGED TOWARDS ME

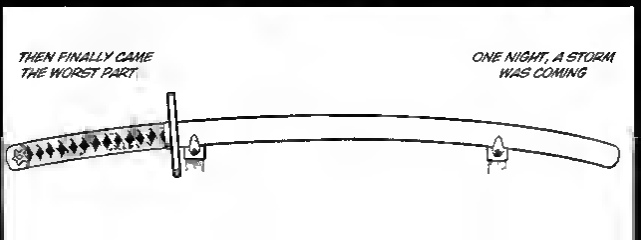
GENZA QUICKLY DREW HIS SWORD AND CUT OFF THAT WOLF'S HEAD
THANKS TO HIM I WAS SAVED
BUT AT THAT TIME THE BLOOD FROM THE WOLF'S HEAD GUSHED OUT AND STAINED THE SWORD
BRUS
BRUS


BYUUSH

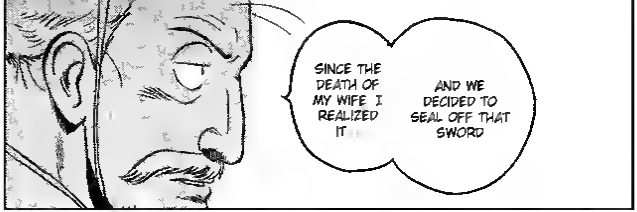

WE HAD TO REDO THE HEATING PROCESS AGAIN...
BECAUSE THE SWORD HAD BEEN TAINTED BY THE WOLF'S BLOOD

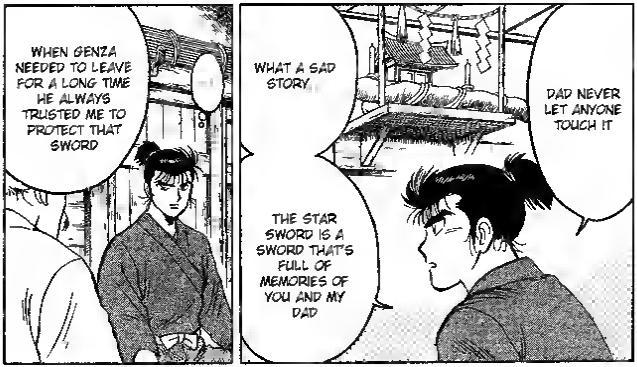

I WANTED TO DESTROY THAT SWORD
BUT GENZA STOPPED ME AND CHOSE TO KEEP IT
THEN HE SHARPENED IT BUT AFTER THE SWORD WAS COMPLETE IT SEEMED THAT THE SWORD HAD A SPIRIT LIVING INSIDE OF IT

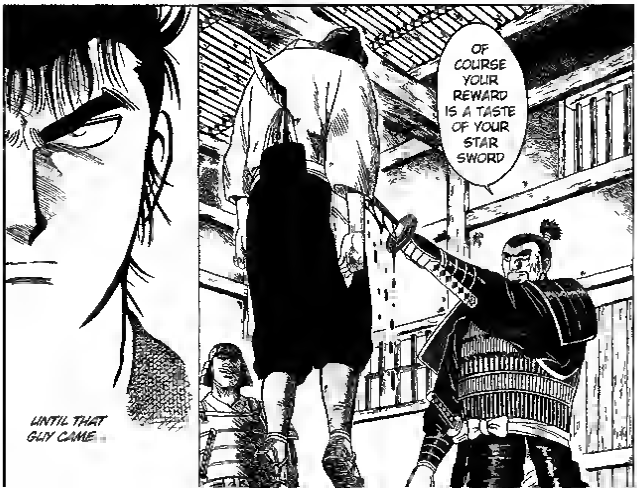

SINCE THEN BAD THINGS KEPT HAPPENING ALL THE TIME
I EXPERIENCED THAT BAD LUCK

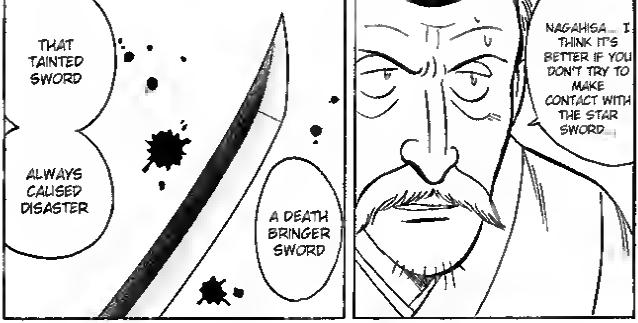

THEN FINALLY CAME THE WORST PART
ONE NIGHT, A STORM WAS COMING

SYUUUT
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
SRIING
DUK


SINCE THE DEATH OF MY WIFE I REALIZED IT
AND WE DECIDED TO SEAL OFF THAT SWORD


WHEN GENZA NEEDED TO LEAVE FOR A LONG TIME HE ALWAYS TRUSTED ME TO PROTECT THAT SWORD
WHAT A SAD STORY
DAD NEVER LET ANYONE TOUCH IT
THE STAR SWORD IS A SWORD THAT'S FULL OF MEMORIES OF YOU AND MY DAD


OF COURSE YOUR REWARD IS A TASTE OF YOUR STAR SWORD
UNTIL THAT GUY CAME


THAT TAINTED SWORD
ALWAYS CAUSED DISASTER
A DEATH BRINGER SWORD
NAGAHISA... I THINK IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T TRY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE STAR SWORD

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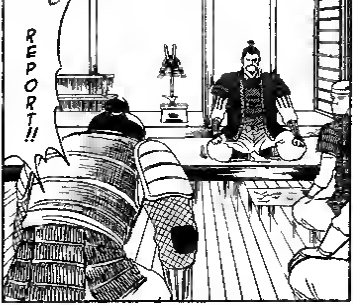
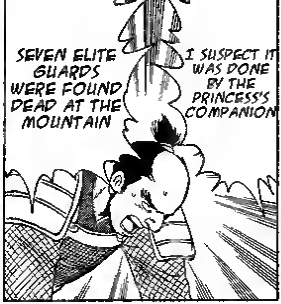
Maru-tani Castle
DON'T YOU TRY TO SPEAK LIKE THAT !!
WHERE IS THE PRINCESS ??
AND WHERE DO YOU GUYS KEEP THE TREASURE !!
BUK!
AAA ...!!

I.....
I don't know.....
I really don't know.....
YOU STILL WANT TO PLAY DUMB WITH ME ??!!
BAK BUK
LOOKS LIKE HE'S A STUBBORN ONE
AH! LORD MITSUMARU
I WON'T HURT YOU
GRAB
SYUUT

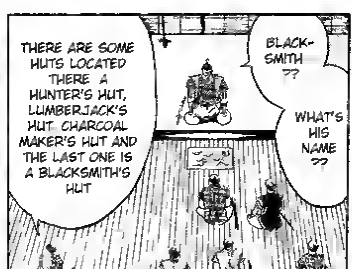
HE HE HE... BUT MY STAR SWORD WILL...
EVERY TIME SHE TASTES HUMAN BLOOD SHE BECOMES SHARPER AND SHARPER !!

STOP NEGOTIATING WITH THEM !!
IT'S USELESS !! JUST KILL THE PRISONERS THAT DON'T WISH TO TALK !!
YES SIR !!





LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCESS ESCAPED FROM THE BACK OF THE CASTLE
AND SHE WENT THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN AND NOW I ASSUME SHE'S HEADING WEST


THERE ARE SOME HUTS LOCATED THERE A HUNTER'S HUT, LUMBERJACK'S HUT CHARCOAL MAKER'S HUT AND THE LAST ONE IS A BLACKSMITH'S HUT
BLACK-SMITH ??
WHAT'S HIS NAME ??

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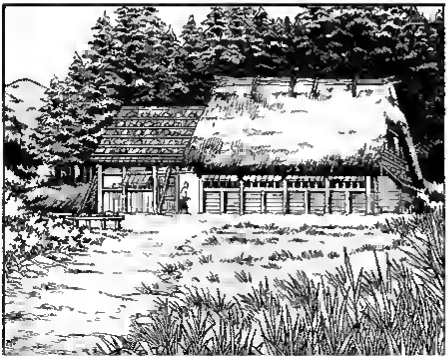
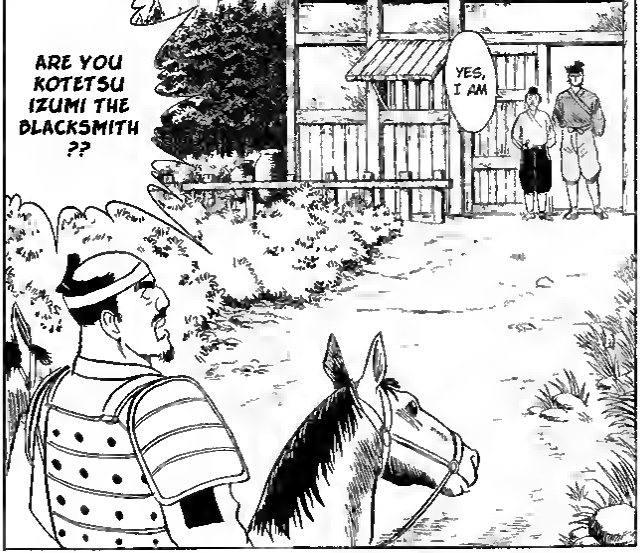
KOTETSU
??

THE BLACK-SMITHS WHO MADE THE STAR SWORD ARE GENZA AMACHI AND THAT KOTETSU "
MAYBE THEY'RE IN THAT HUT



NAGAHISA !! HAITANI MOUNTED TROOPS ARE HEADING HERE !!
WHAT !!
ONLY THREE...
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO SCOUT
MIZUKI !! GO AND HIDE INSIDE !!
OKAY
DON'T WORRY PRINCESS
WE WILL BE FINE!
SRET
SRET
PLEASE BE CAREFUL...


ARE YOU KOTETSU IZUMI THE BLACKSMITH ??
YES, I AM

AND THAT MAN BEHIND YOU ...??
HE IS MY APPRENTICE
WE WERE SENT BY LORD MITSUMARU YAMATO THE NEW MARUTANI RULER KOTETSU IZUMI THE MAKER OF THE STAR SWORD !! HIS MAJESTY WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND YOU MUST COME WITH US IMMEDIATELY TO THE CASTLE !!

WH... WHAT ...!!
MUTSUMARU YAMATO
BUT... IT'S SO SUDDEN...
MASTER
I THINK YOU BETTER GO
I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU

PROF
PROF
NAGAHISA
WHEN WE MEET WITH MITSUMARU YAMATO... DO YOU INTEND TO KILL HIM?
YES !! AS SOON AS I GET THE CHANCE ...!!
BUT WE'RE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES

IF I COULD KILL HIM I WOULDN'T REGRET IT EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE WITH HIM !!
CALM DOWN
OLD MAN... MY FATHER AND I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP
SORRY TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS BUT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG AT LEAST WE CAN MEET WITH DAD...
BUT...
HE LOOKS CALM BUT ON THE INSIDE HIS HEART IS COVERED WITH HATRED AND VENGEANCE
I WONDER IF HE'S THINKING ABOUT PRINCESS MIZUKI...
I KEEP THINKING ABOUT HIS FATHER'S GENTLE FACE...

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PSST PSST PSST
!
ISN'T THAT THE KING??
PSST... PSST... PSST...
ANNOUNCEMENT THIS IS THE HEAD OF MARUTANI'S RULER HEIHACHI KAWAMOTO
IT'S MARUTANI'S CASTLE RULER
MIZUKI'S DAD...!!!
THE KING'S HEAD INTENTIONALLY BEING SHOWN TO THE PEOPLE LIKE THIS...
WHAT A HORRIBLE DEED...!!!
THE PEOPLE FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE KING...
PSST PSST
BUT THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING...
PSST... PSSTT... PSSSTT...

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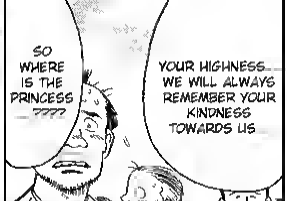

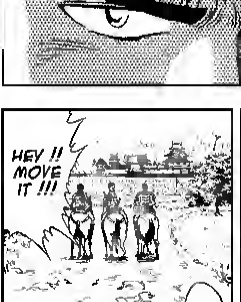

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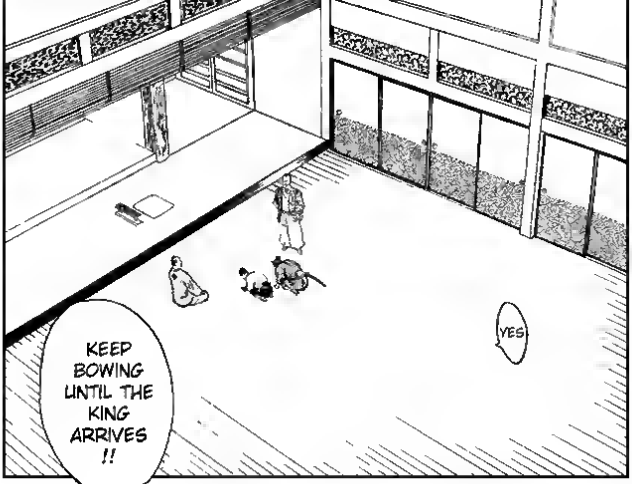
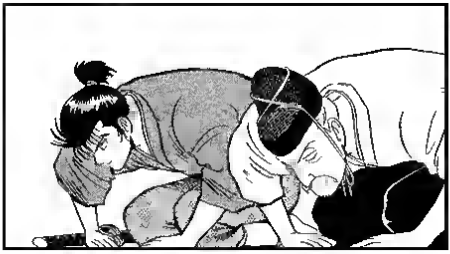

KEEP BOWING UNTIL THE KING ARRIVES !!
YES

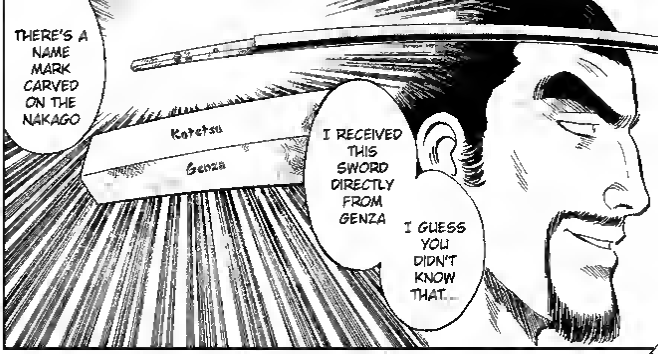


MY LORD
DAT
DAT
DAT

RISE !!!

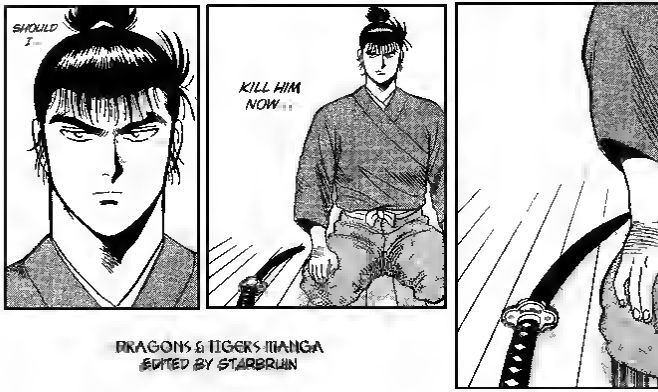
IT'S HIM!!!

FINALLY..
I FOUND HIM..!!
YOU'RE KOTETSU IZUMI THE FAMOUS BLACKSMITH, CORRECT ??
STILL REMEMBER THIS SWORD ??
YES— I REMEMBER THAT SWORD. THAT IS THE STAR SWORD, THE LAST SWORD THAT MY PARTNER AND I MADE TOGETHER...
YOUR PARTNER IS GENZA AMACHI RIGHT ??
!!
MY LORD... YOU KNOW ABOUT GENZA, TOO ??


THERE'S A NAME MARK CARVED ON THE NAKAGO
Kotetsu
Genza
I RECEIVED THIS SWORD DIRECTLY FROM GENZA
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT...

Note : Nakago is the inside part of a sword's grip

You shameless piece of shit...
THANKS TO THIS STAR SWORD I AM NOW THE NEW RULER OF THIS COUNTRY... HE HE HE !!!
IF I HOLD THIS SWORD I CAN FEEL MY BLOOD BURNING !!! THIS REALLY IS A SACRED SWORD !!



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2
DON'T MOVE !!!
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO —
TRANG!!

KRESSH

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WH... WHAT ???
A SWORD THAT CAN CUT A SWORD ???
IF I FOUGHT HIM IN A REAL BATTLE, I WOULD BE DEAD ALREADY...
EVEN KOTETSU'S FINEST SWORD LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF WOOD...
A TOTAL FAILURE...
YOU GUYS MUST BE CURIOUS BECAUSE IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SEE EVERYDAY
IT'S BECAUSE THIS SWORD WAS MADE BY KOTETSU WITH A SPECIAL TECHNIQUE
WHY IS THIS STAR SWORD SO GREAT ??
BECAUSE IT WAS MADE BY A RARE MATERIAL THAT DOESN'T EVEN EXIST ON THIS EARTH

DRAGONS & TIGERS MANGA
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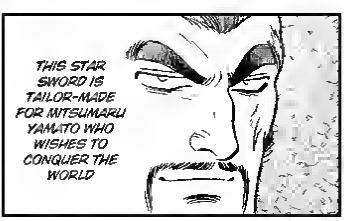
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KOTETSU ???

A RARE MATERIAL THAT DOESN'T EXIST ON THIS EARTH ???

YES... IT'S JUST LIKE MY LORD SAID EARLIER.

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NO OTHER SWORD THAT CAN STAND UP AGAINST THIS STAR SWORD

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA


THIS STAR SWORD IS TAILOR-MADE FOR MITSUMARU YAMATO WHO WISHES TO CONQUER THE WORLD

BLAM
THE WAR IS STILL ON KOTETSU I WILL BUY ALL OF YOUR SWORDS !!!
WORK HARD !!!
CIH
GRAMPS TELL ME...
WHAT IS THE STAR SWORD MADE OF !?

I SENSE SOMETHING ON THAT APPRENTICE OF KOTETSU
HE... HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A BLACKSMITH MAYBE HE'S BEEN HIRED BY SOMEONE TO...
HMM SOMETHING'S WRONG
CHECK KOTETSU'S APPRENTICE'S BACKGROUND AND KEEP AN EYE ON HIM " REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF YOU FIND ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS
YES SIR
AND ABOUT PRINCESS MIZUKI
IF SHE REALLY IS GONE, YOUR HEAD WILL ALSO BE GONE UNDERSTOOD ???
Y... YES...

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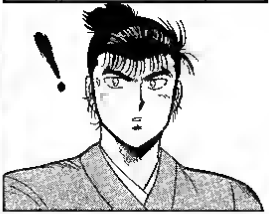
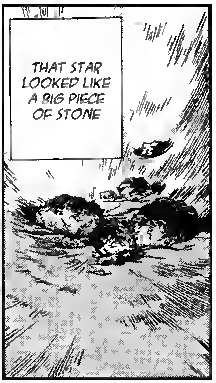
FROM WHAT MATERIAL WAS THAT STAR SWORD MADE OF ???
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY A RARE MATERIAL THAT DOESN'T EXIST ON THIS EARTH ??
TELL ME GRAMPS !!!

STAR...

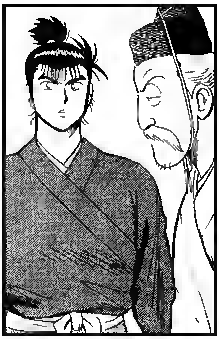

!

WE NAMED IT THE STAR SWORD
BECAUSE WE MADE IT FROM A STAR FRAGMENT
STAR..??
AND WE WERE WATCHING THE SKY WHICH WAS FULL OF STARS
THAT TIME... AFTER WE FINISHED MAKING A SWORD, GENZA AND I WENT OUT FOR A BREAK

BUUUMMM
OUR EARS FELT LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO BREAK WHEN WE HEARD THE STAR FALL FROM THE SKY

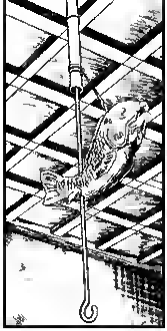


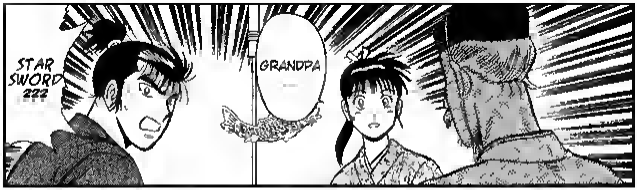
THIS STAR FRAGMENT IT HAS SOME STEEL ESSENCE IN IT
HMMM...
WE BROUGHT THE FRAGMENT BACK WITH US. WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT AT FIRST BUT WE DECIDED TO MAKE A SWORD USING THAT FRAGMENT

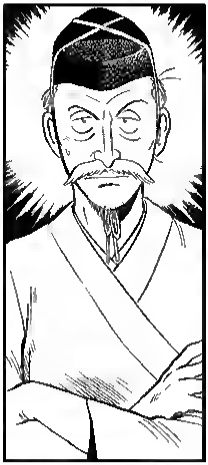


DRAGONS & TIGERS MANGA
SCANNED BY SCALIAN

SO MITSUMARU YAMATO HAS A GREAT SWORD LIKE THAT...
ANY OTHER SWORD WILL JUST BE THE SAME AS THAT ONE— WHAT SHOULD I DO ??
MY FATHER AND YOU ARE REALLY GREAT BLACK-SMITHS, GRAMPS...
NO OTHER SWORD COULD BEAT YOURS...







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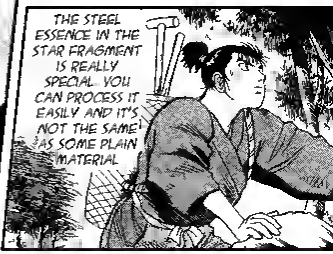
THE STAR WAS BROKEN INTO PIECES
AT THE TIME GENZA AND I DIDN'T BRING IT ALL BACK

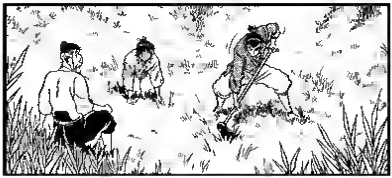

THE STEEL ESSENCE IN THE STAR FRAGMENT IS REALLY SPECIAL. YOU CAN PROCESS IT EASILY AND IT'S NOT THE SAME AS SOME PLAIN MATERIAL

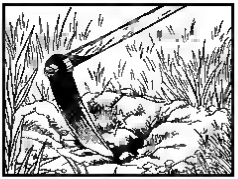
20 YEARS HAVE PASSED

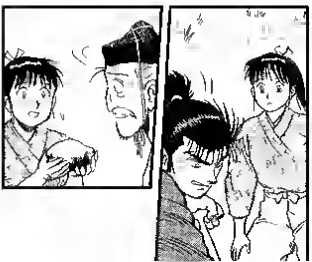
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL STILL FIND IT

BUT WE SHOULD TRY TO SEARCH FOR IT ANYWAY. MAYBE IT IS STILL THERE

HERE ....
INSIDE THIS CROOKED GROUND ...

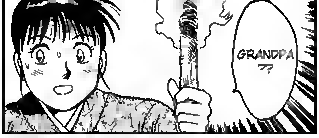


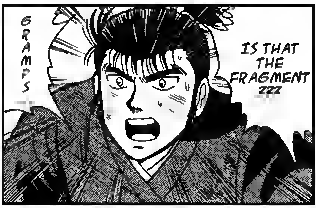


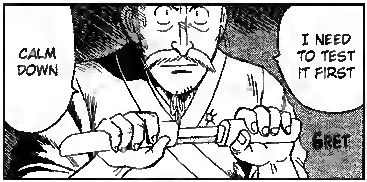


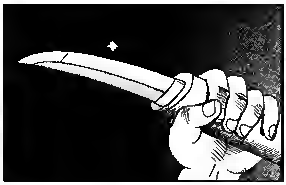
THIS ???

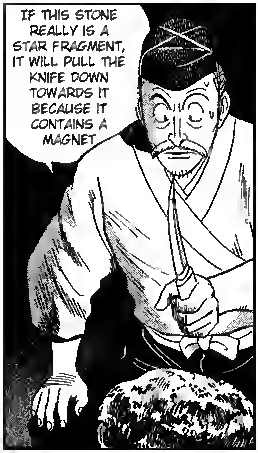
HMMM

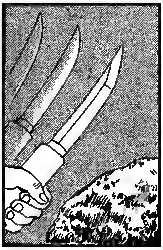

GRANDPA ??

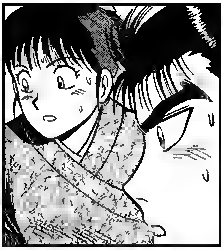

GRAMPS
IS THAT THE FRAGMENT zzz

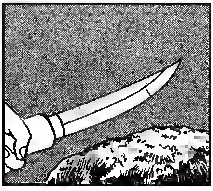

CALM DOWN
I NEED TO TEST IT FIRST
GRET

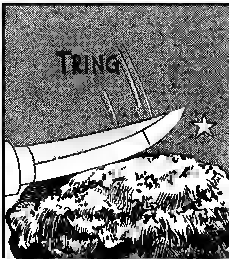



IF THIS STONE REALLY IS A STAR FRAGMENT, IT WILL PULL THE KNIFE DOWN TOWARDS IT BECAUSE IT CONTAINS A MAGNET

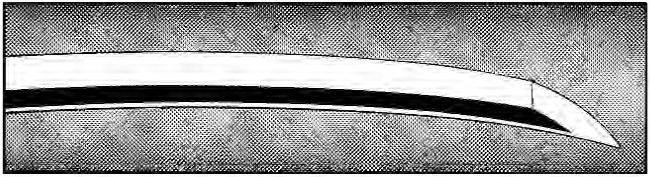




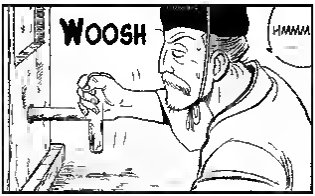


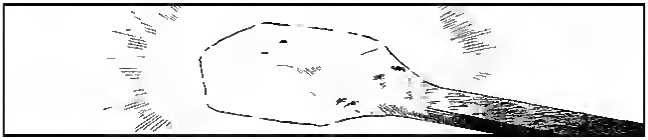

TRING

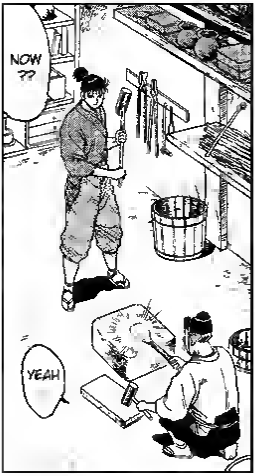
TEK
POK
IT STICKS
THIS IS IT...
THIS IS THE STAR FRAGMENT

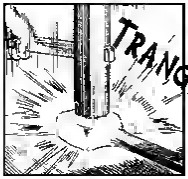


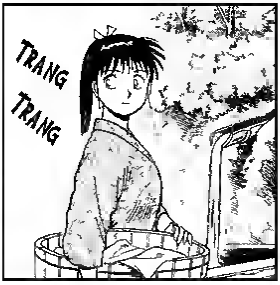
HMMM...
THERE IS NO OTHER SWORD THAT SHINES AS BRIGHT AS THIS STAR SWORD...











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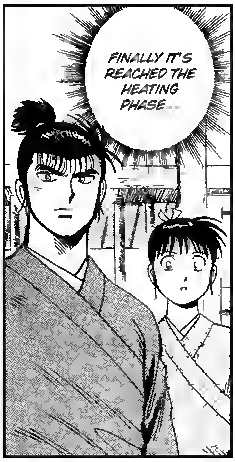
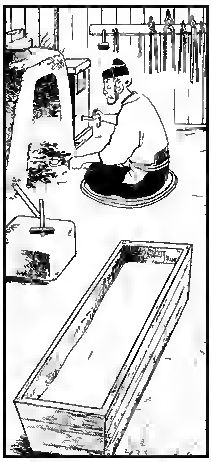
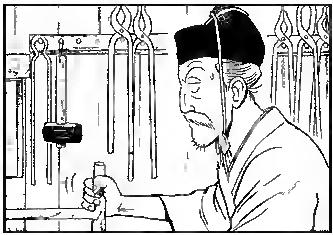
TRANG
TRANG
SRET
TRANG
TRANG
TRANG
TRANG
TRANG
TRANG
HIS FORGING POWER SOUNDS ALMOST THE SAME AS GENZA'S... A REALLY GOOD TECHNIQUE IS NEEDED TO DO THAT
WELL... HE REALLY IS GENZA'S SON AFTER ALL...
A GREAT PERSON !!

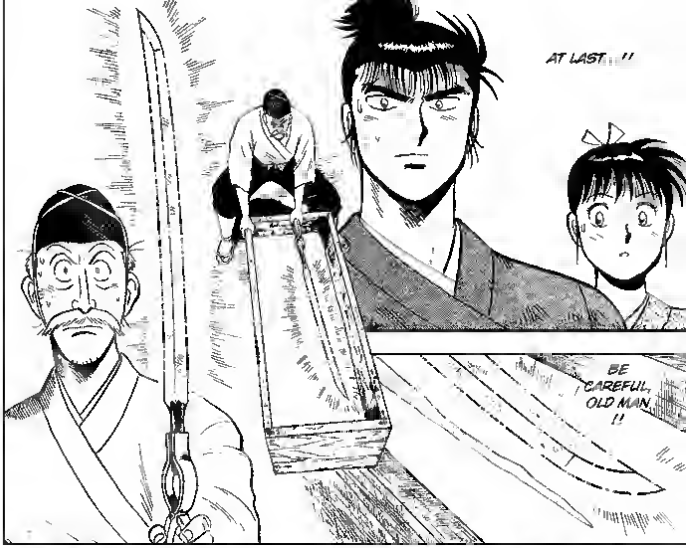

FINALLY IT'S REACHED THE HEATING PHASE...

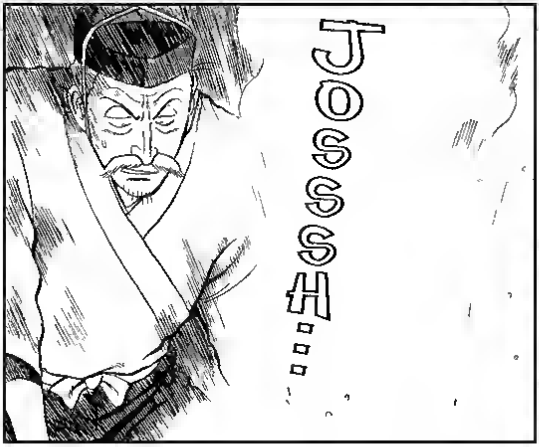




ENOUGH!!

WOOSSH


AT LAST...!!
BE CAREFUL, OLD MAN!!


JOSSSH...

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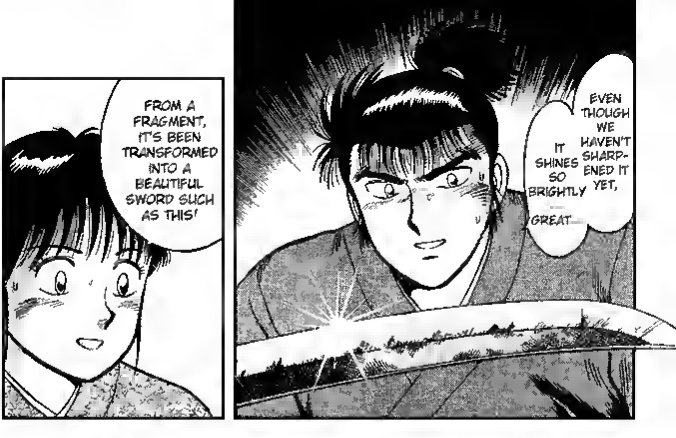

FROM A FRAGMENT, IT'S BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A BEAUTIFUL SWORD SUCH AS THIS!
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVEN'T SHARPENED IT YET, IT SHINES SO BRIGHTLY
GREAT...

NOT YET...
UNTIL WE SHARPEN IT, ONLY THEN WILL THE SWORD BECOME A TRUE STAR SWORD...

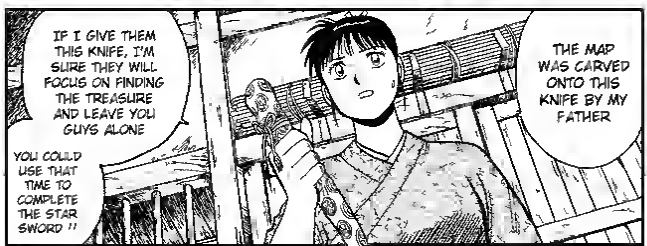
SRUK SRUK
SRUK SRUK
ONLY NEED TO SHARPEN IT...
ONCE IT'S COMPLETE THIS SWORD WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ON MITSUMARU YAMATO'S STAR SWORD

2!
PRIN-
CESS
MIZUKI
!!!
WE'VE
SURROUNDED
THE HUT !!!
COME OUT
IMMEDIATELY
!!!

USUALLY IT REQUIRES TWO HOURS TO SHARPEN IT...
BUT I CAN FINISH IT IN JUST ONE HOUR!
OLD MAN, THE SWORD
IT'S MITSUMARU YAMATO!
THEY'VE SURROUNDED THE HUT ALREADY !!
IF IT'S LEFT LIKE THIS IT WON'T BE GOOD ENOUGH AGAINST MY STAR SWORD
ONE HOUR.
MIZUKI
I WILL BUY YOU SOME TIME

TREASURE !!

I'M THE ONE MITSUMARU YAMATO WANTS...
HE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE MARUTANI'S TREASURE IS HIDDEN

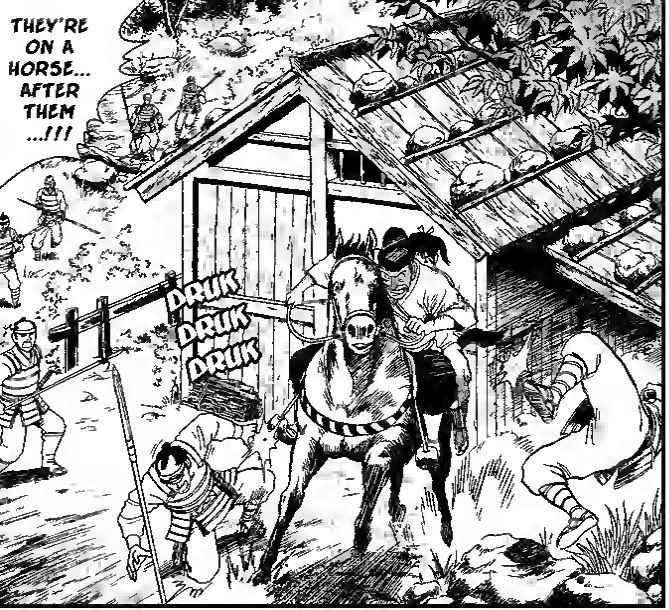

IF I GIVE THEM THIS KNIFE, I'M SURE THEY WILL FOCUS ON FINDING THE TREASURE AND LEAVE YOU GUYS ALONE
YOU COULD USE THAT TIME TO COMPLETE THE STAR SWORD !!
THE MAP WAS CARVED ONTO THIS KNIFE BY MY FATHER

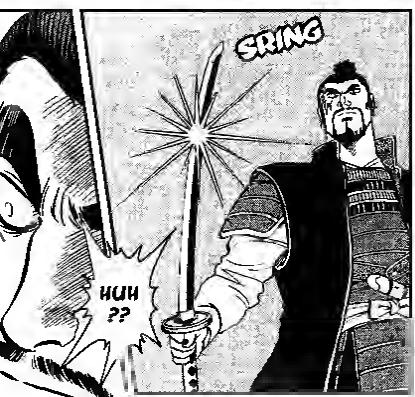
SET
THIS IS MY PROBLEM YOU GUYS SHOULD STAY OUT OF IT
I WILL GO OUTSIDE NOW

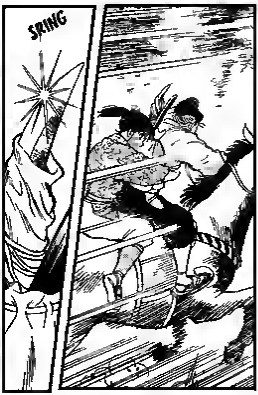
but if you do that they will

Naga-hisa
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT !!
MIZUKI, I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE
PLEASE TRUST ME !!
NOW, DO WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU !!
MITSUMARU IS VICIOUS
OKAY!
THEN TAKE THE HORSE AT THE BACK AND RUN AWAY!
GRAMPS, GRAB ALL OF YOUR THINGS
AND THE SWORD'S COMPO-NENTS, TOO
WELL ...
BUT NAGAHISA... WE ONLY HAVE ONE HORSE I DON'T THINK WE CAN MAKE IT!
WE HAVE TO LEAVE ONE PERSON BEHIND...

I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE INSIDE!
NO NEED TO HURRY...
MAYBE THE TREASURE IS INSIDE WITH THE PRINCESS
THEY DON'T WANT TO COME OUT ?? LET'S CHARGE IN THEN !!
DU DU DU
HYA
!!
THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE BACK...!!


THEY'RE ON A HORSE... AFTER THEM ...!!!
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK


SRING
HUH ??


SRING

...
WHAT'S THAT SHINY THING..??
AFTER THEM !!!
DRUK
DRUK
DRUK

IT LOOKS LIKE A STAR SWORD...
WHAT'S THAT SHINY THING ON KOTETSU'S BACK?

IS IT..??

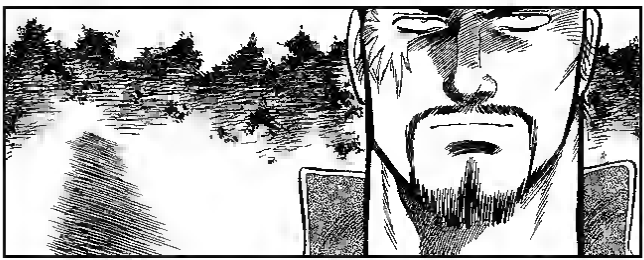
DAT DAT DAT
DRUK DRUK
BOWMEN, READY !!
THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY TO THE REAR OF THE MOUNTAIN !!
SREET
HYAA
Aah!
B R U U K

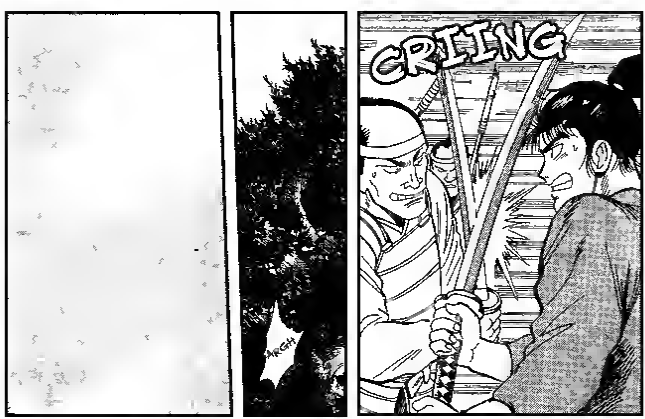
!!
AAH !!
SRAAT
SRAAT
SRAAT
I AM YOUR OPPONENT !!!
DAMN YOU !!!!

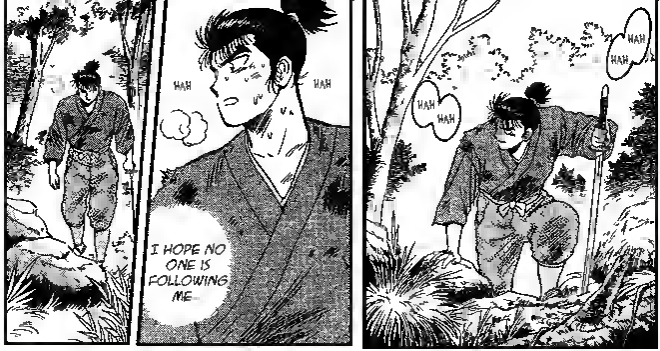
THE TREASURE IS KEPT AT NAGON WATERFALL ON SEINAN MOUNTAIN...!!
SO I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE SOLDIERS
IN TWO HOURS I WILL MEET YOU THERE!
GRAMPS... PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MIZUKI AND THE STAR SWORD
NAGA-HISA...

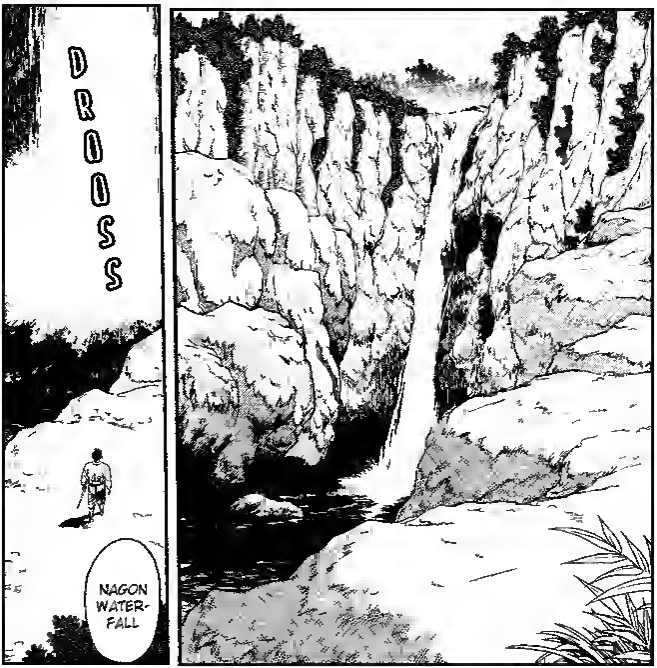
SRAT
DAT DAT DAT
THEY'RE USELESS
CALL BACK THE SOLDIERS AND CHASE PRINCESS MIZUKI USING THE OTHER ROUTE
OKAY!!
AND ONE OTHER THING

RIGHT AWAY !!
SEIZE THE SWORD THAT KOTETSU HAS WITH HIM
DO IT NOW !!



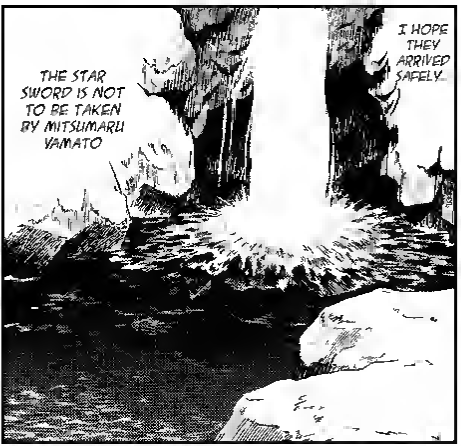

GRIING
HEGH


HAH
HAH
I HOPE NO ONE IS FOLLOWING ME
HAH
HAH
HAH


DROSS
NAGON WATER-FALL

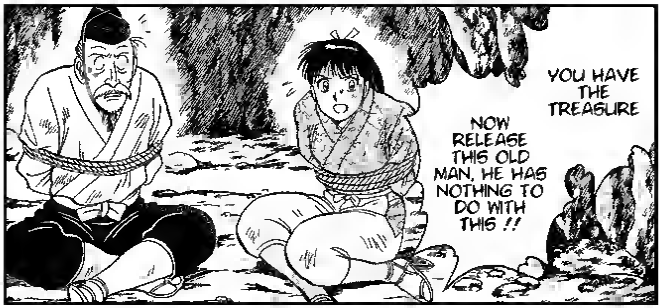
WHERE ARE GRAMPS AND MIZUKI...?

I HOPE THEY ARE OKAY !!


I HOPE THEY ARRIVED SAFELY.
THE STAR SWORD IS NOT TO BE TAKEN BY MITSUMARU YAMATO

KYAA!!
!!
THAT'S MIZUKI'S VOICE...!!
SO...
THE MAP OF THE TREASURE WAS CARVED ONTO THIS KNIFE

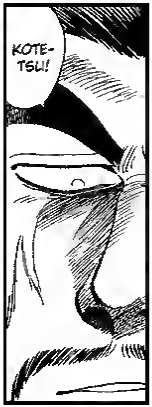
PRINCESS MIZUKI, I HAVE BOTHERED YOU TOO MANY TIMES...

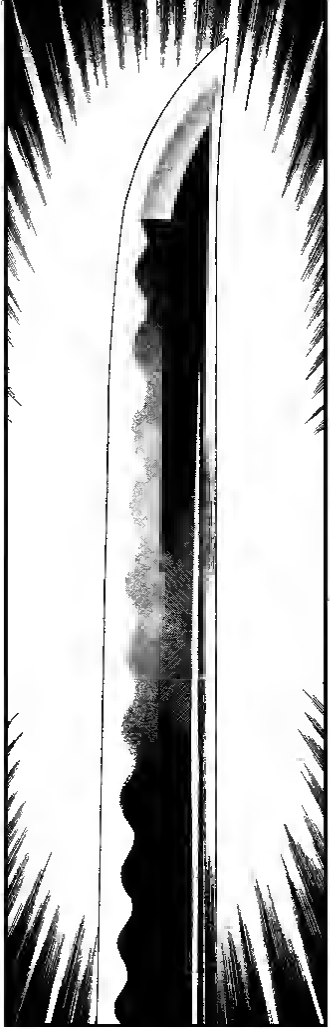

YOU HAVE THE TREASURE
NOW RELEASE THIS OLD MAN, HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS !!

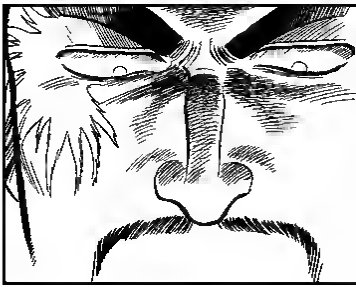
I CAN'T DO THAT
TOO BAD...

SHOW ME THAT SWORD !!

...!


KOTE-TSU!





THIS IS NO DOUBT A STAR SWORD!!
WHAT A NICE SPARKLE
SO THERE IS ANOTHER STAR AFTER ALL...
...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NEW...
IT'S JUST BEEN SHARPENED RIGHT?
AHH
SNUT

!!
NAGAHISA AMACHI ...!!
MITSUMARU YAMATO !! STOP RIGHT THERE !!

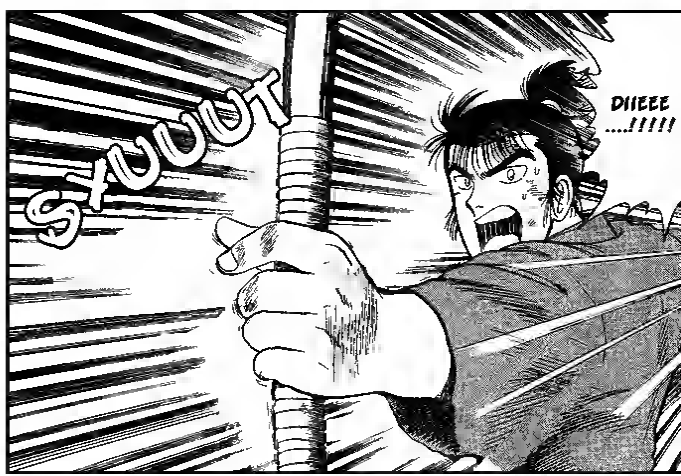
AMACHI ??
SEVEN YEARS AGO, YOU STOLE MY FATHER'S STAR SWORD
YOU KILLED MY MOTHER AND FATHER, AND MY SISTER KILLED HERSELF BECAUSE YOU RAPED HER.
EVEN WITHOUT MIZUKI'S AND THE OLD MAN'S HELP...!!
I WILL KILL YOU RIGHT NOW !!
SO GENZA AMACHI HAD A SON
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
TREK
DOTO

K..R..R..R....EK....
IN SUCH CLOSE RANGE I'M SURE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DODGE THIS ARROW !!
I'M WEARING ARMOR, YOU'D HAVE TO AIM FOR MY HEAD OR NECK... DO IT !!
YOU WANT TO KILL ME WITH THAT ARROW ??

TOO CLOSE !
FROM THAT CLOSE A RANGE, THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN EVADE IT

NO MATTER HOW GOOD LORD MITSUMARU IS, IT'S REALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DODGE IT !!!
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO ???

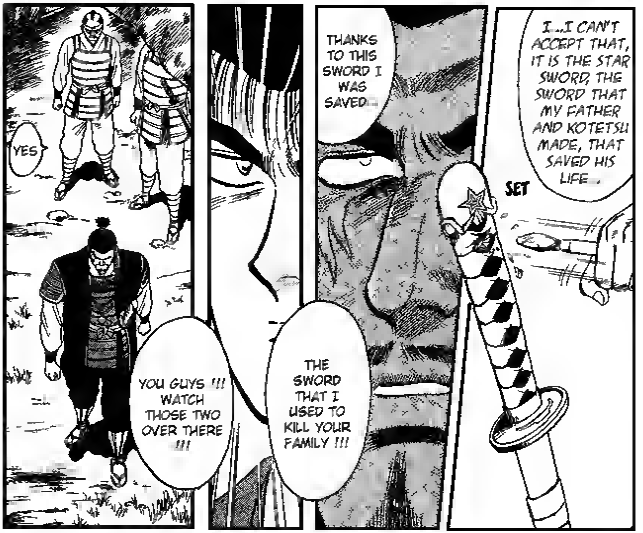
Mitsumaru
Yamato


SYUUUT
DIIEEE
....!!!!!

SSHH
LORD MITSUMARU !!!
!!

NICE AIM...
HEHE HEHE
HUUUHH ???
HE STOPPED THE ARROW WITH THE SWORD'S GRIP !!!

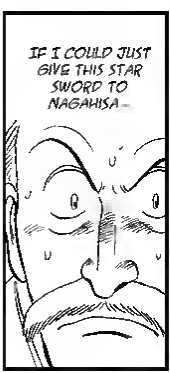
THAT...THAT ARROW COULDN'T EVEN... I... I FEEL SO HOPELESS...
HE HE IS GOOD...


I...I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT, IT IS THE STAR SWORD, THE SWORD THAT MY FATHER AND KOTETSU MADE, THAT SAVED HIS LIFE...
SET
THANKS TO THIS SWORD I WAS SAVED...
THE SWORD THAT I USED TO KILL YOUR FAMILY !!!
YOU GUYS !!! WATCH THOSE TWO OVER THERE !!!
YES

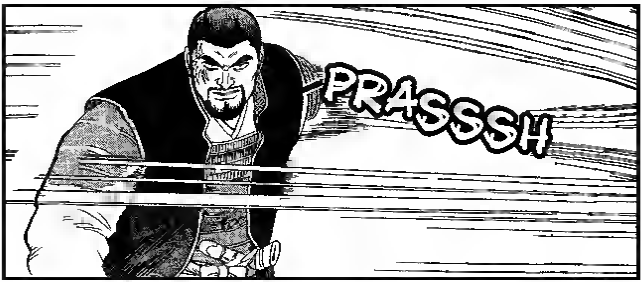
SYUUT

SYUUT
AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO TASTE THIS SWORD !!!

THIS NO GOOD... I HAVE TO FIGHT THE STAR SWORD WITH THIS BLUNT SWORD...


IF I COULD JUST GIVE THIS STAR SWORD TO NAGAHISA...

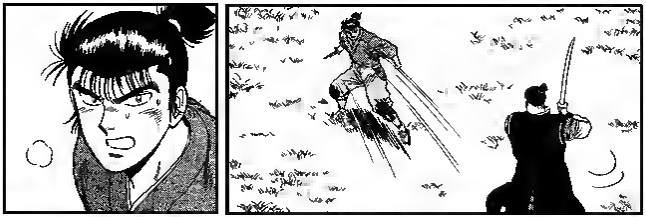
Naga-hisa


PRASSSH

KREEK

BLAMM
SET
TRILING
WHUUUT
!!
THAT BIG TREE WAS CUT WITH JUST ONE SLASH...

SET



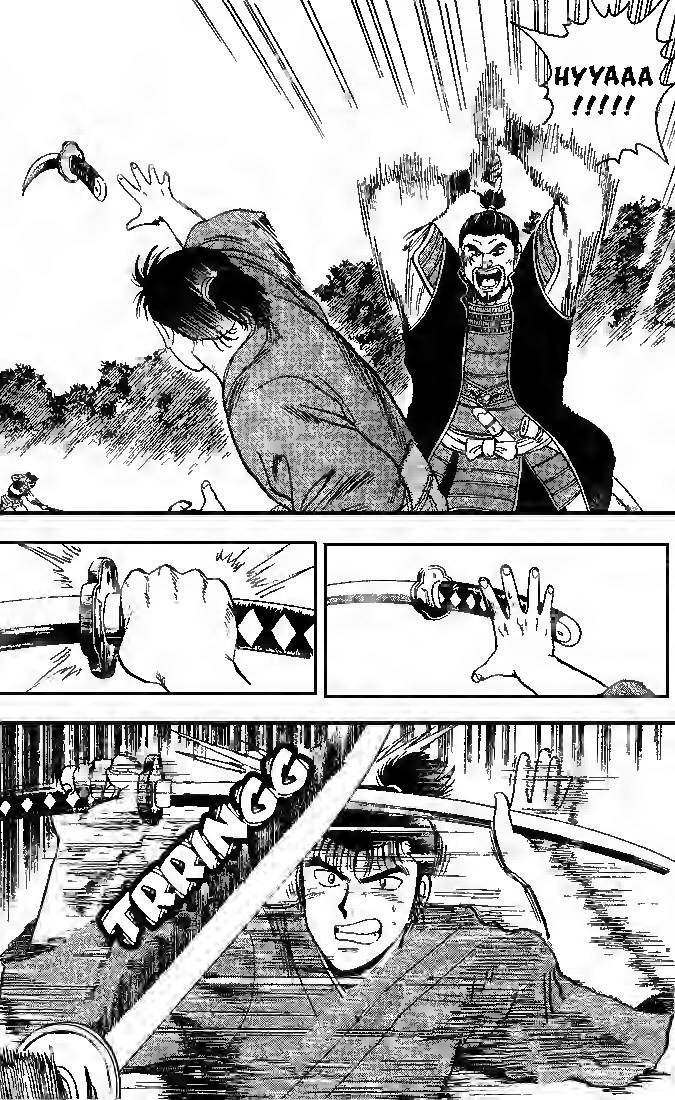
THIS SWORD IS NO MATCH FOR HIS...
DAMN... IF ONLY I HAD THAT SWORD...
HEHEHE... HEY WHAT'S WRONG ?? DIDN'T YOU WANT TO KILL ME ??

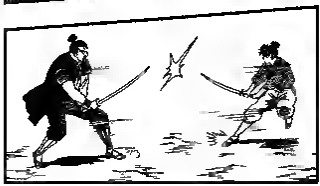
YEAHH !!!
I'M SURE LORD MITSUMARU WILL DEFEAT HIM EASILY...!!!
Clunk
PRAK
COME ON...
HEY OLD MAN !!!
SWISH
!!

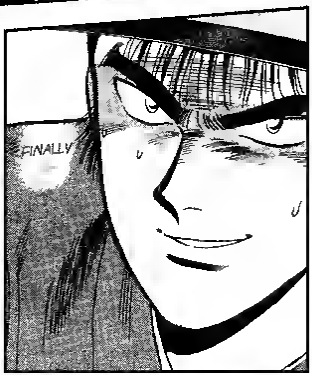
BRUGH
BRUGH
CRASH
YOUR HIGH-NESS
NOW I'M ON YOUR SIDE
Y_YOU_

YOU CAN'T AVENGE YOUR FAMILY IF YOU KEEP RUNNING LIKE THAT...
JUST GIVE UP ALREADY
YOU'RE GOING TO MEET YOUR FATHER SOON !! ISN'T THAT GOOD ???
NAGA-HISA !!!!!!

CATCH THIS !!!!
SYUUUT
MIYAMATSU ARAKI !!!
THE STAR SWORD !!!


HYYAAA
!!!!!
TRRING



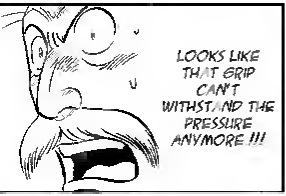

FINALLY

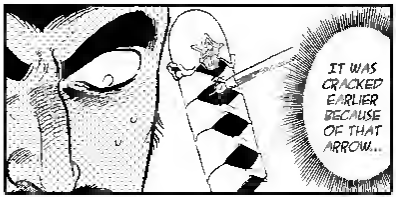
AFTER WAITING FOR SO LONG...!!!!
SYSST

TRINGG
TRINGG
TRINGG
HYAAAAA !!!
TE
SWUT
WHAT A NICE SWORD !!
TRINGGG
HYAAAA !!!

KRAKK

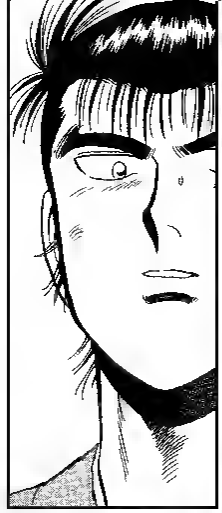
THE GRIP BROKE INTO PIECES...
PROLL


LOOKS LIKE THAT GRIP CAN'T WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE ANYMORE !!!

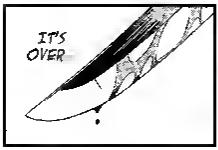

IT WAS CRACKED EARLIER BECAUSE OF THAT ARROW...

MITSUMARU YAMATO !!! PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER !!!!!!

AMACHI
.....
AAAR-RGHH
!!!!
...
CRAAT
BYUUU



ARAAAASSS


IT'S OVER

NAGA-HISA !!!
NAGA-HISA !!!

OLD MAN. MIZUKI.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS SWORD, GRAMPS.
I'M SURE YOUR FATHER HELPED YOU FROM UP THERE.
LOOKS LIKE THIS CURSED SWORD CAN SAVE PEOPLE AFTER ALL.
KOTETSU
GENZA
AND WHEN I DIE ONE DAY, PLEASE BURY THIS SWORD WITH ME.
WELL I'LL FIX IT FOR SURE.

IT IT'S NOTHING... I... I JUST...
MIYAMATSU THANKS FOR YOUR HELP...
MIYA-MATSU!
HEY
ER...
Forget about it...
I OWE YOU ONE

...
THE WAR IS NOT OVER...
BUT EVEN THOUGH MISTUMARU YAMATO IS GONE...
I'M GOING BACK HOME
WELL...
SO.. WHAT ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO DO NOW ??

WHEN WILL WAR BE GONE FOREVER FROM THIS WORLD ???
IF ONLY ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD COULD JUST LIVE HAPPILY TOGETHER IN PEACE....
HEY... THE SUN IS GOING TO SET SOON...
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW ???
WELL... WE CAN NEVER AVOID IT...
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS TO KEEP MOVING AND FACE IT...

HOSHI NO KEN END